

FAIRY TAIL

8



Creator of *Rave Master*

Hiro Mashima

FAIRY TAIL



HIRO MASHIMA

8



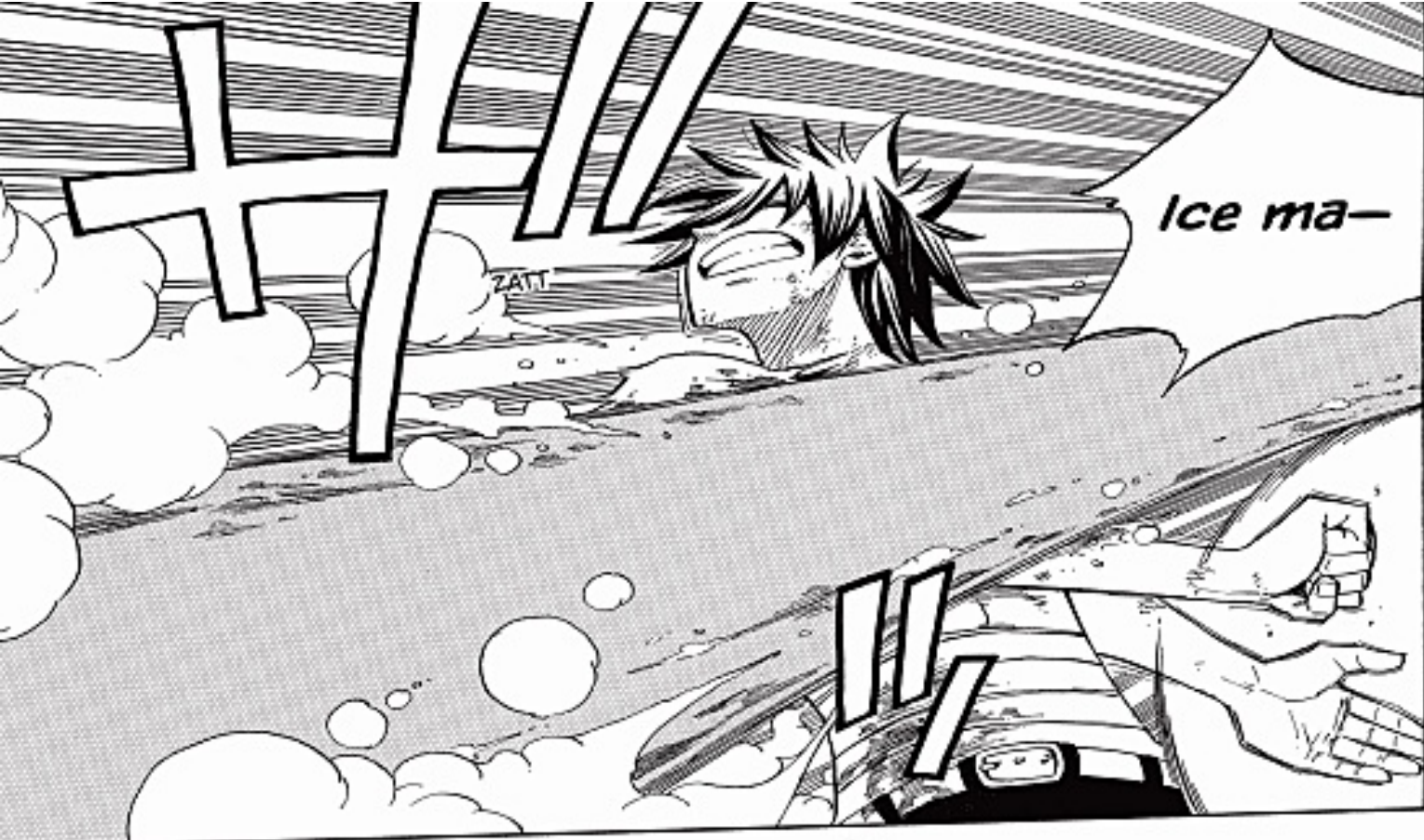
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FAIRY TAIL



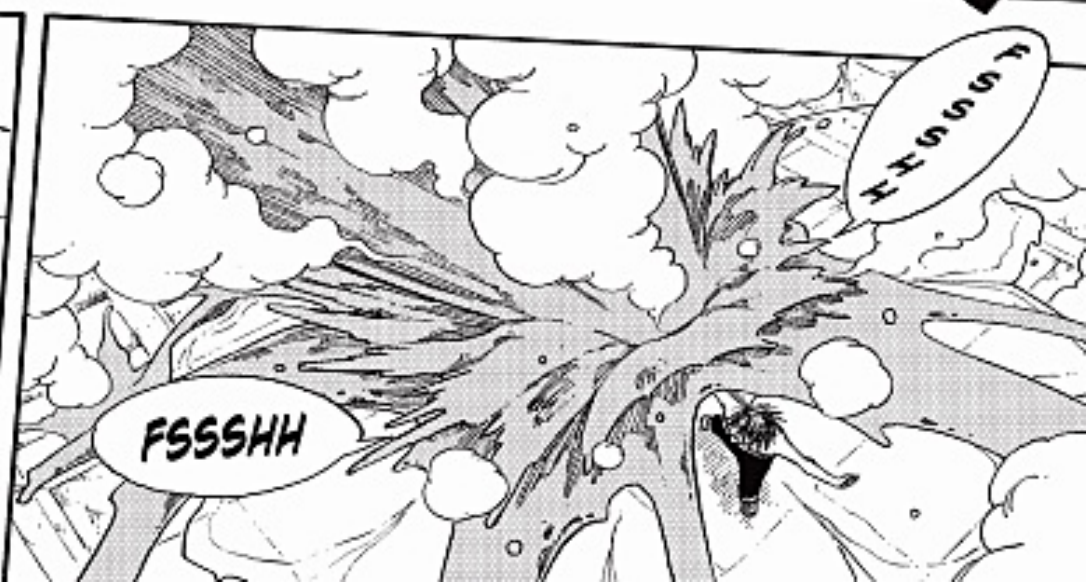
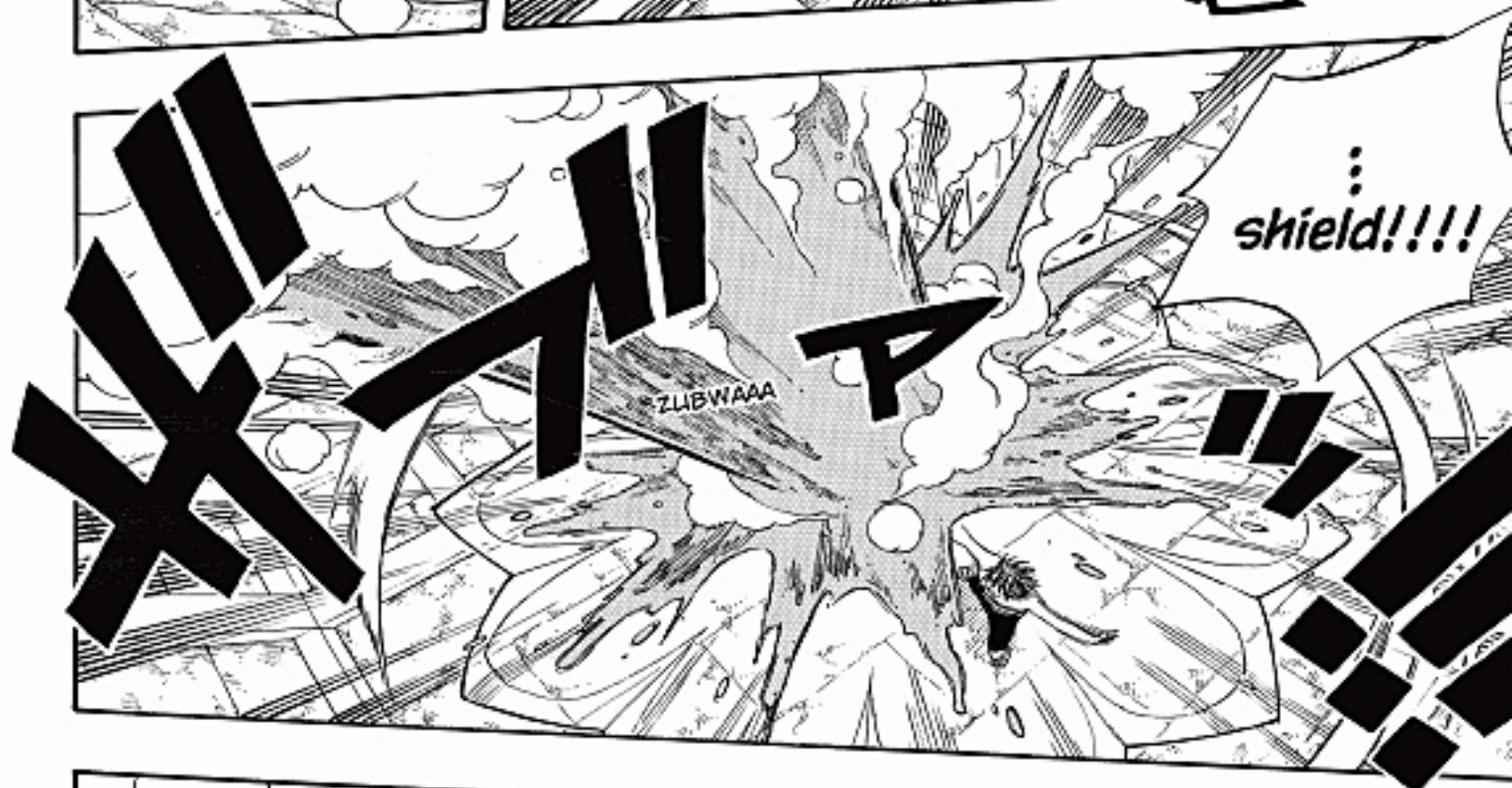
Chapter 57: Fair-Weather Charm

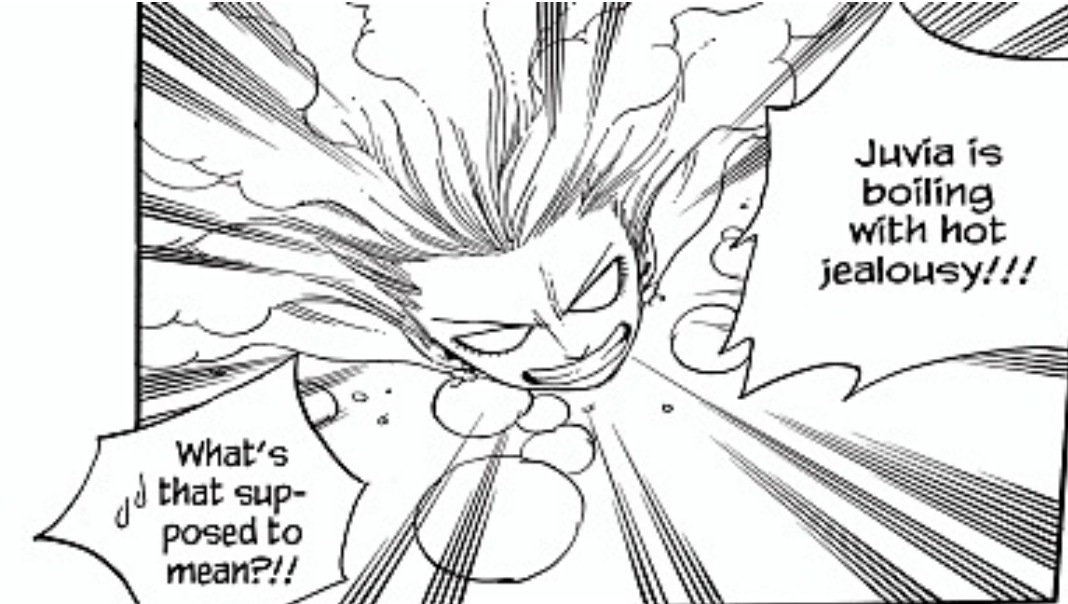




She's fast!!!











Now,
freeze
!!!!

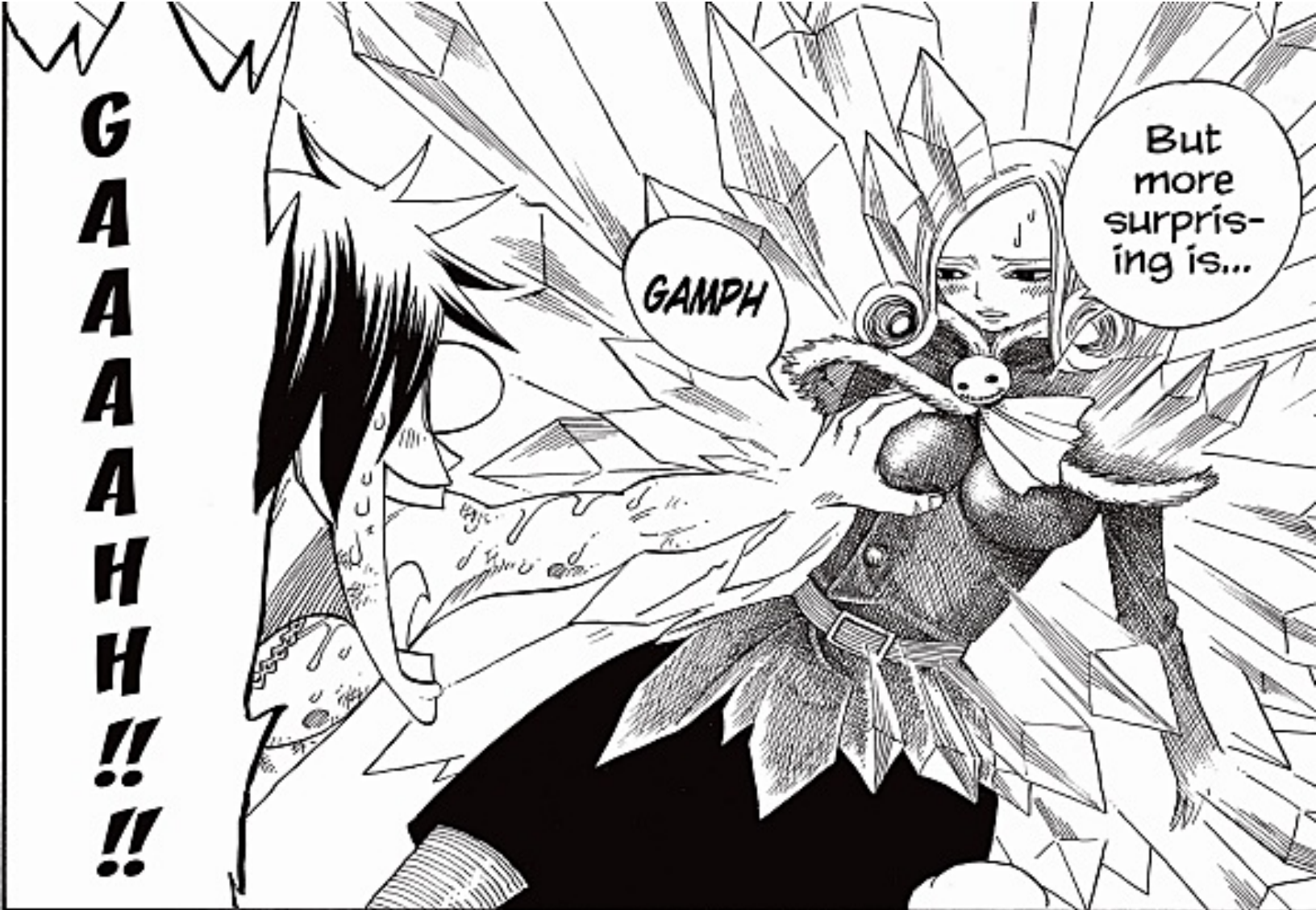


Heh!

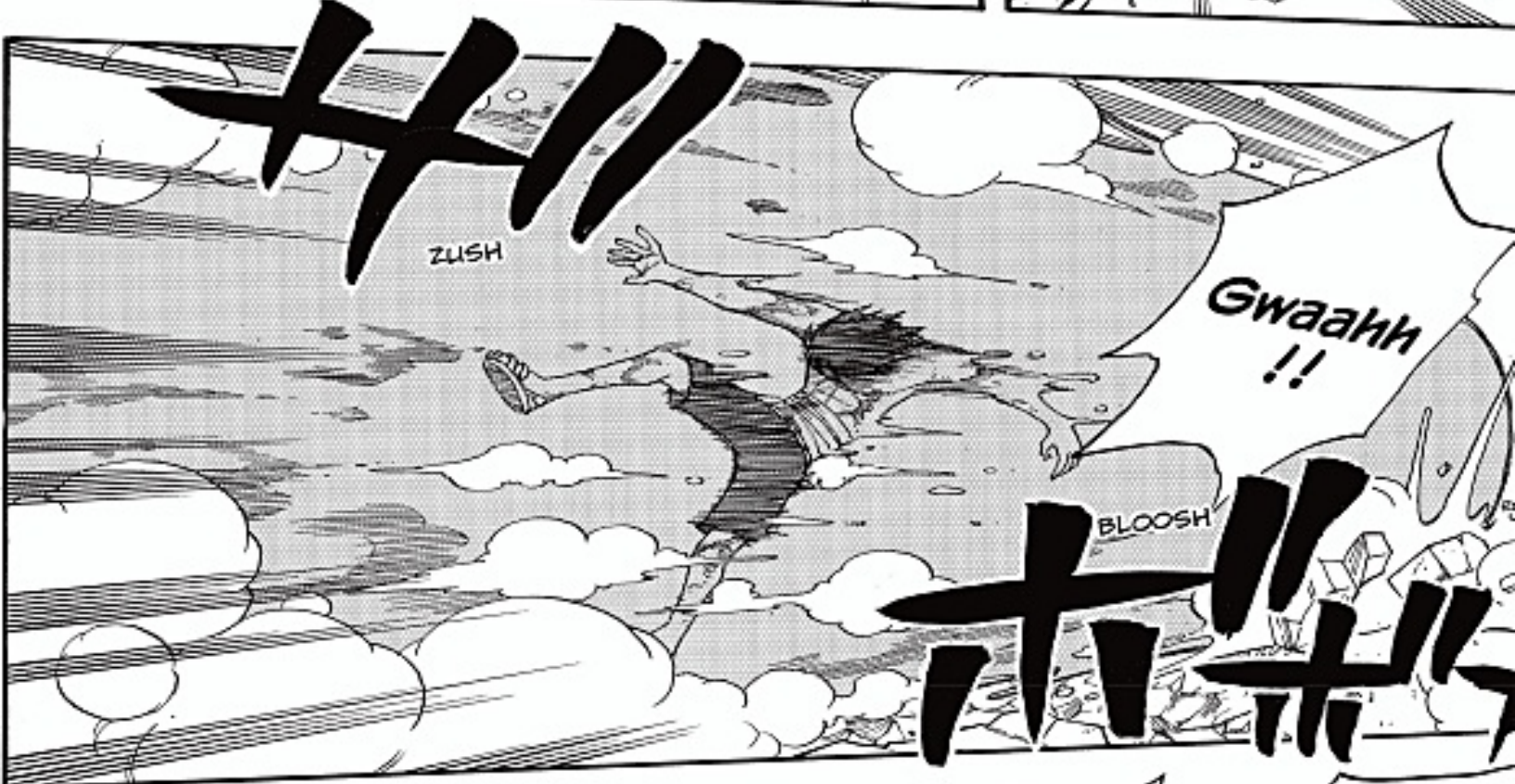


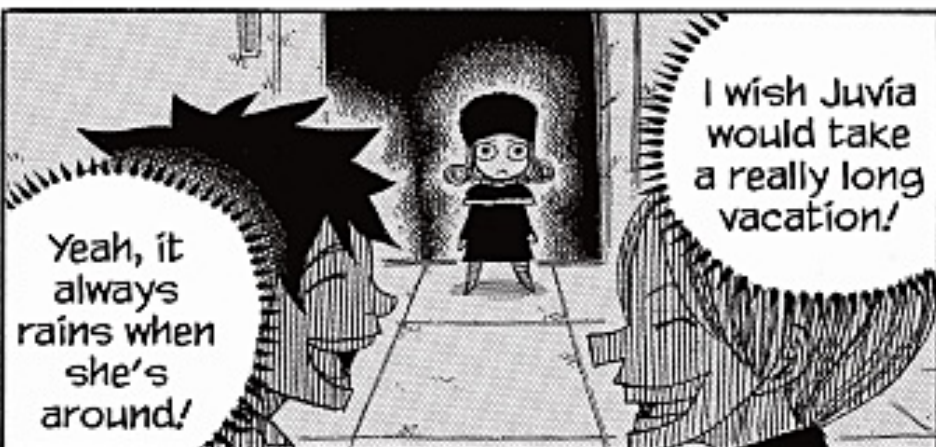
I-It cannot
be
possible...

No one
could ever
freeze
Juvia's
boiling
water...



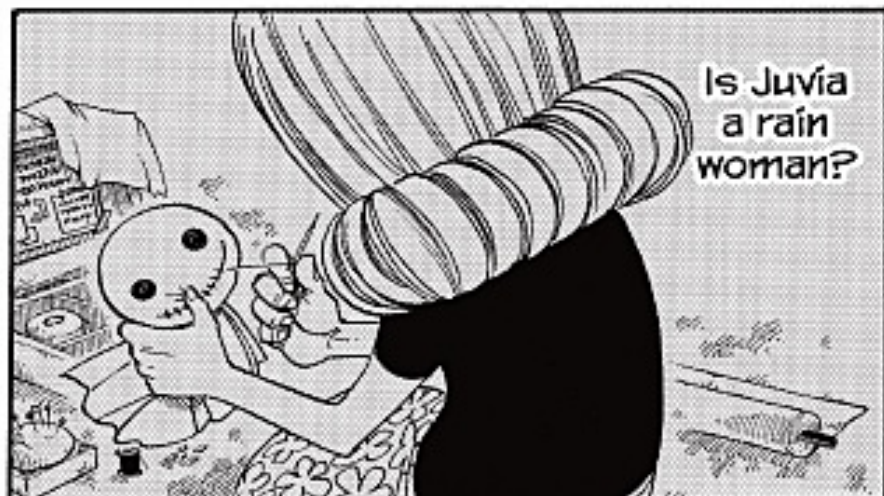
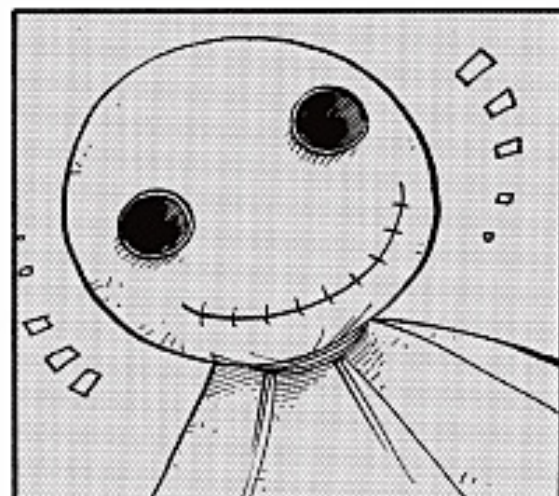






I wish Juvia would take a really long vacation!

Yeah, it always rains when she's around!



Is Juvia a rain woman?



I can't go on like this! We're through!

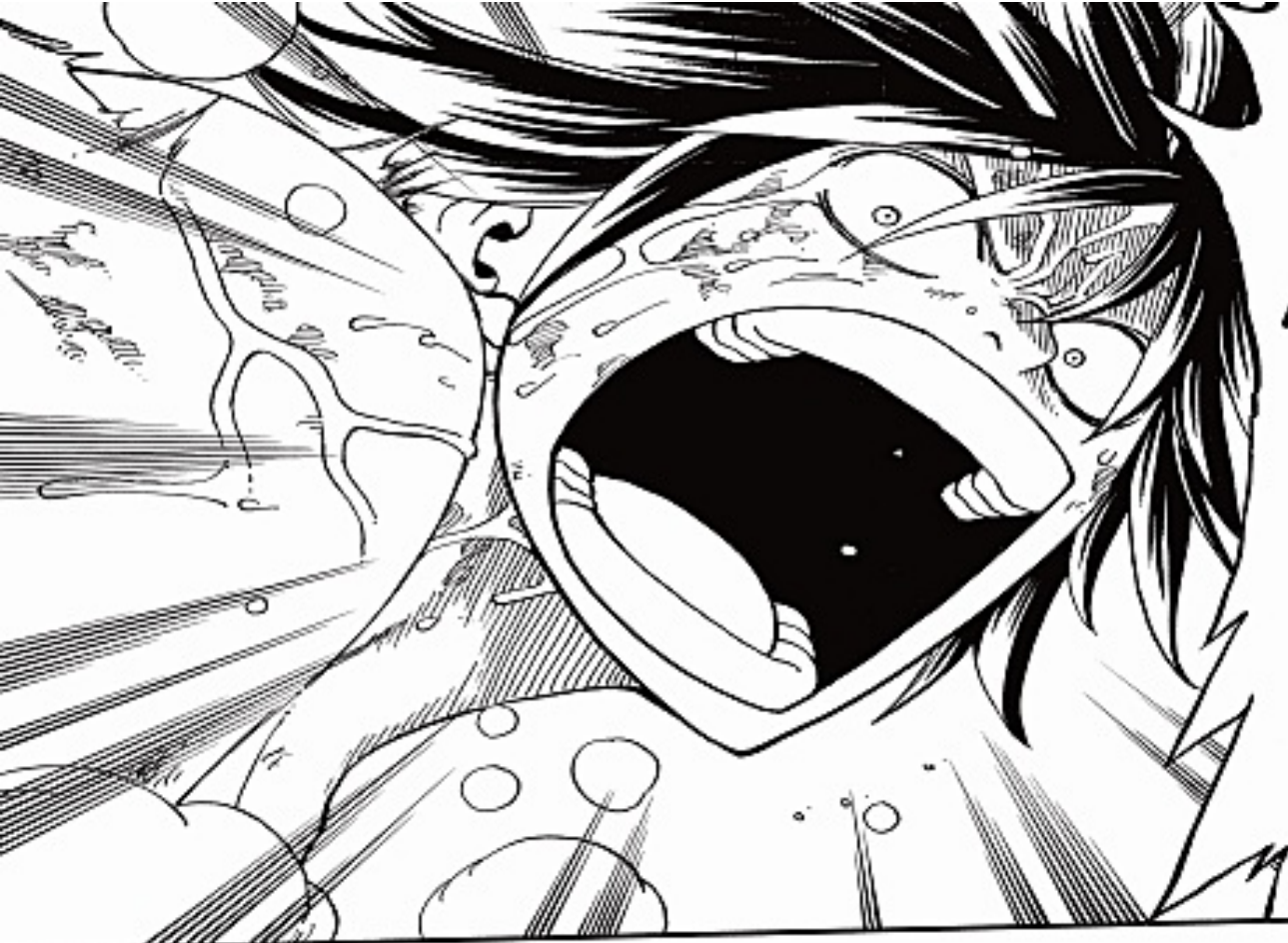
Why is it always raining?!

I can't take you fishing or camping or anything!!!

An Element Four wizard!!!

Juvia is one of the Element Four!!!





**Hyaaa-
aahhh
!!!!**



HYUOOOO



He's even
turning
the rain
to ice...?

What
amazing
magical
power!!!

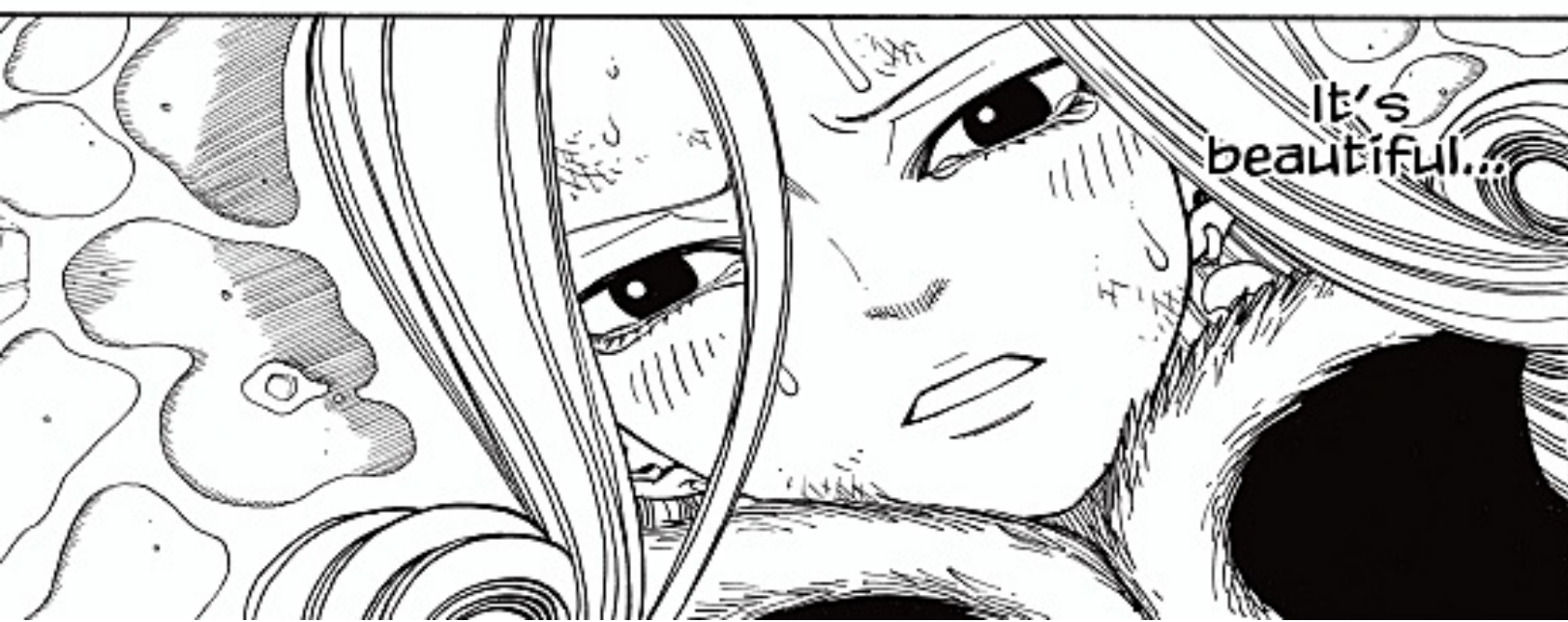
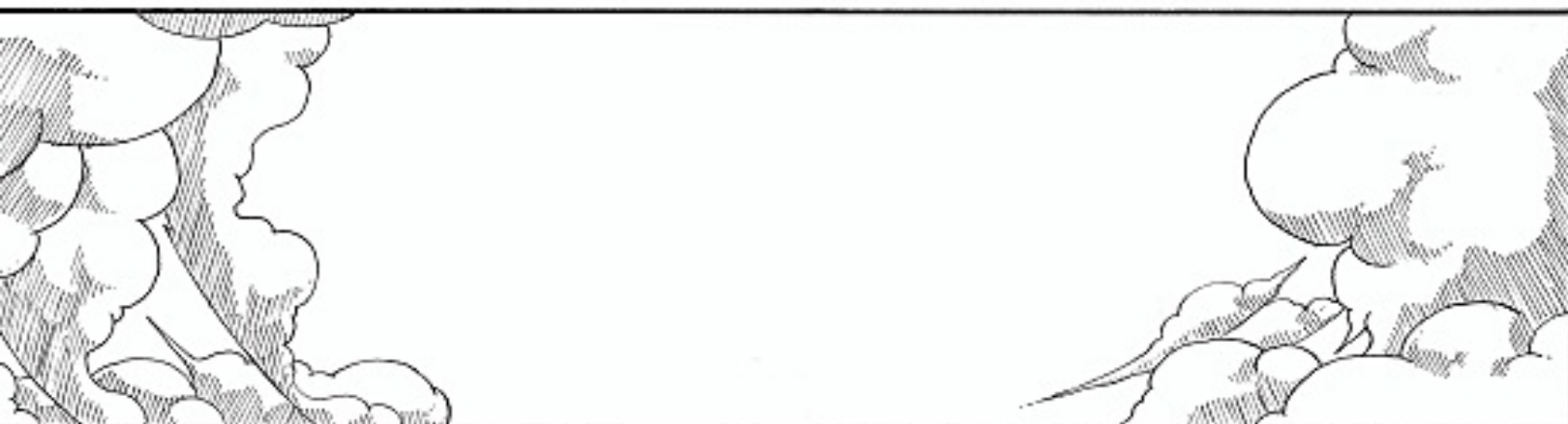
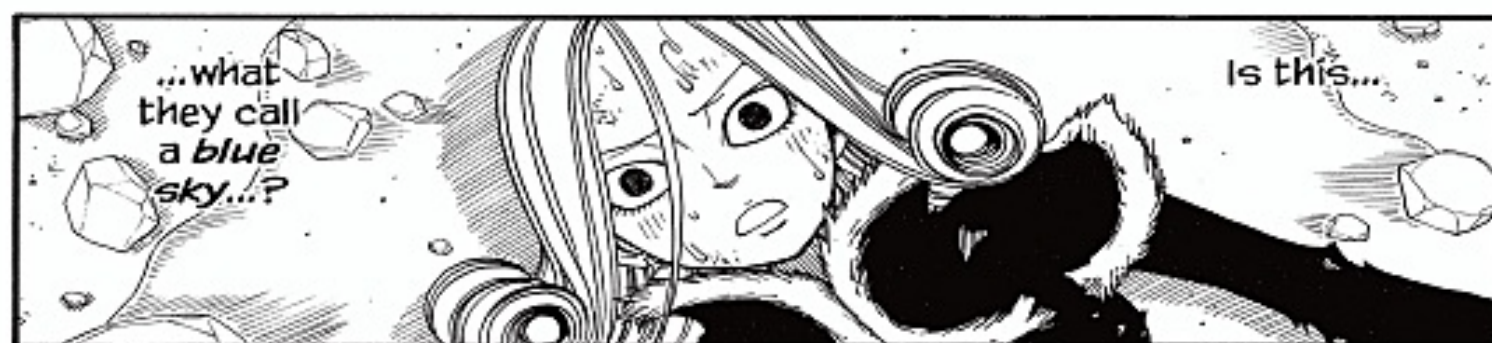


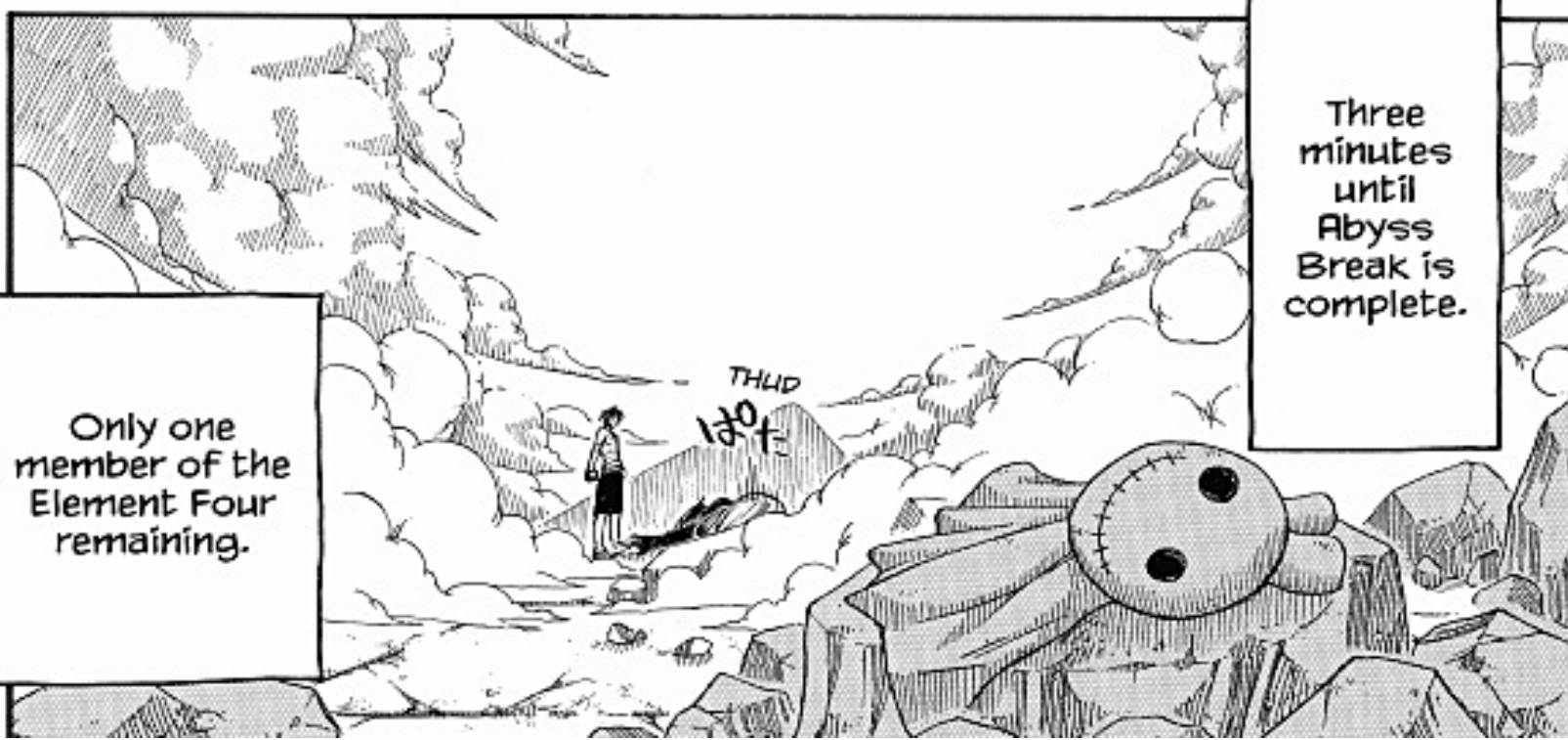
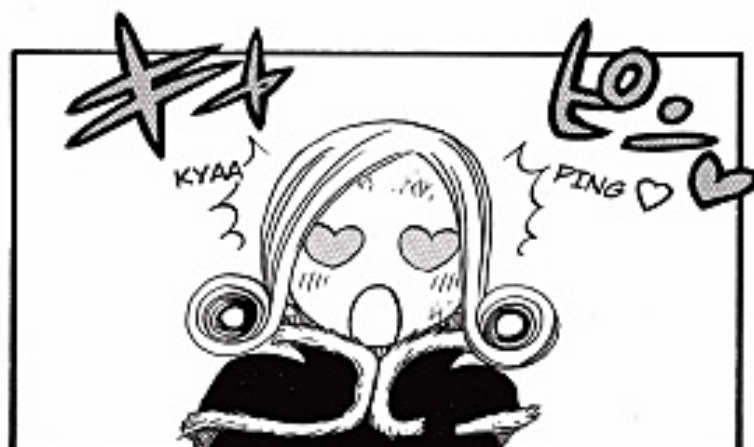




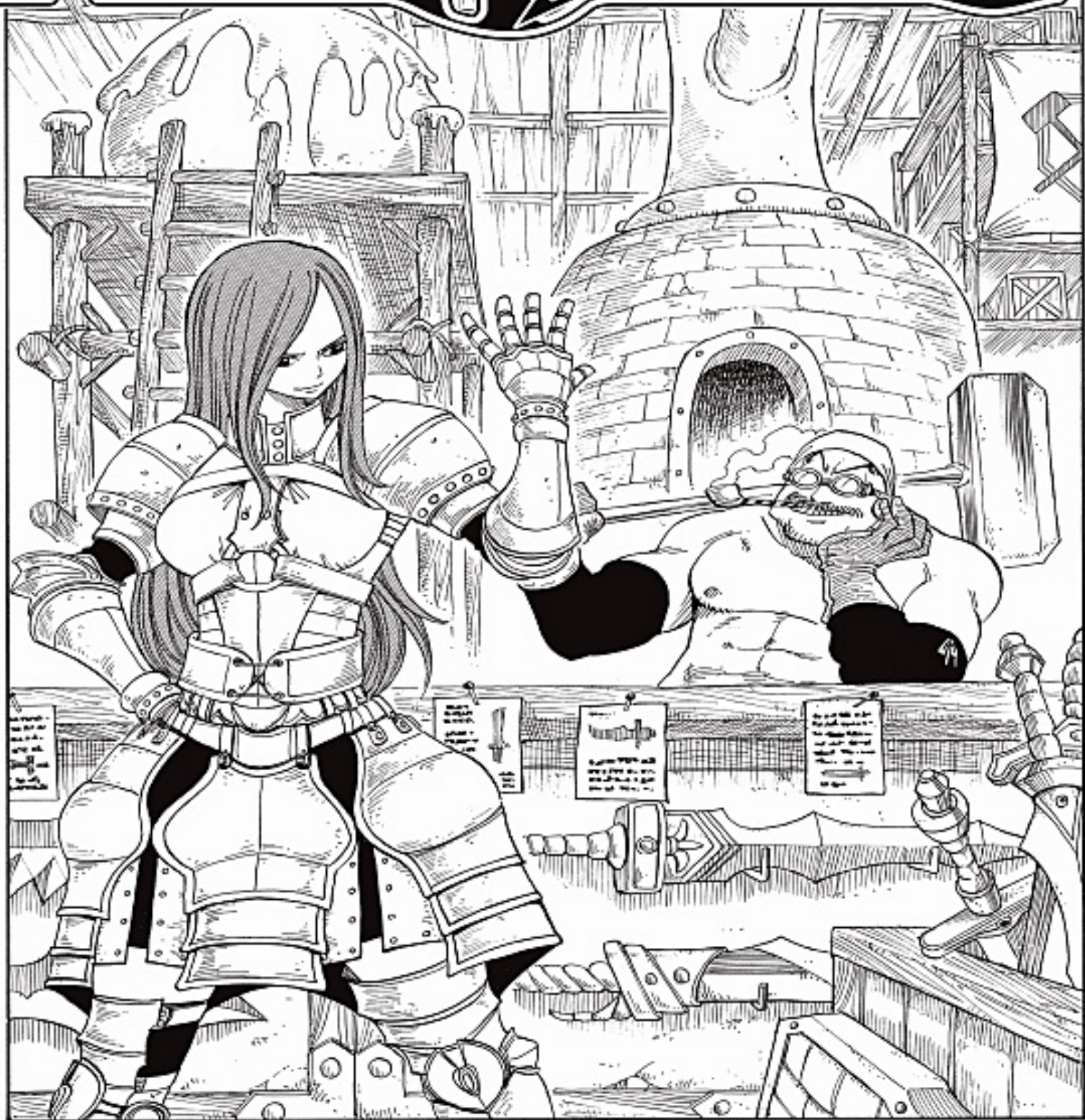
The
rain...

...has
stopped...

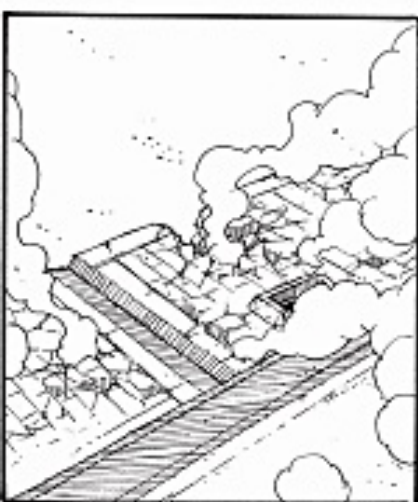
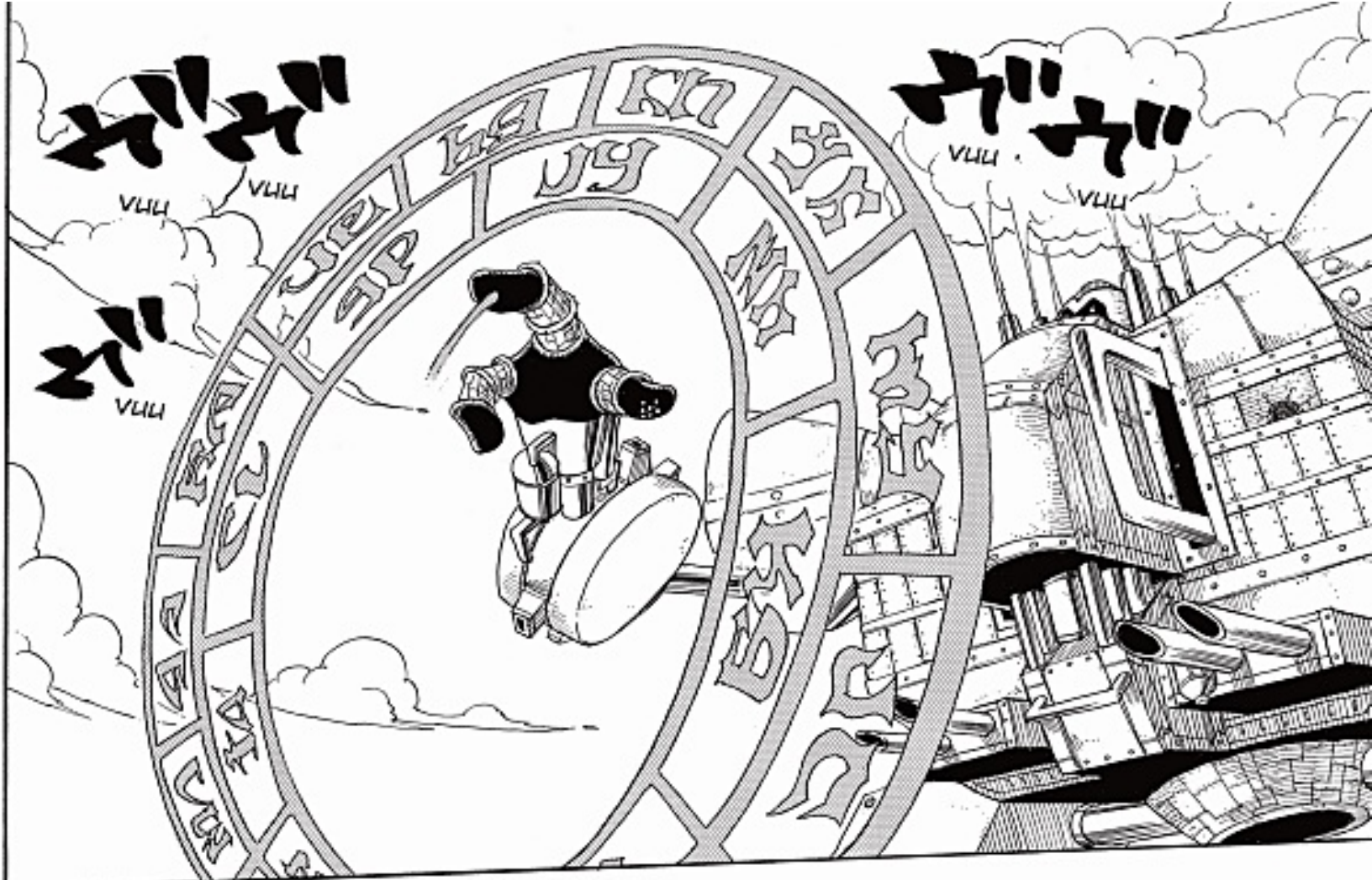


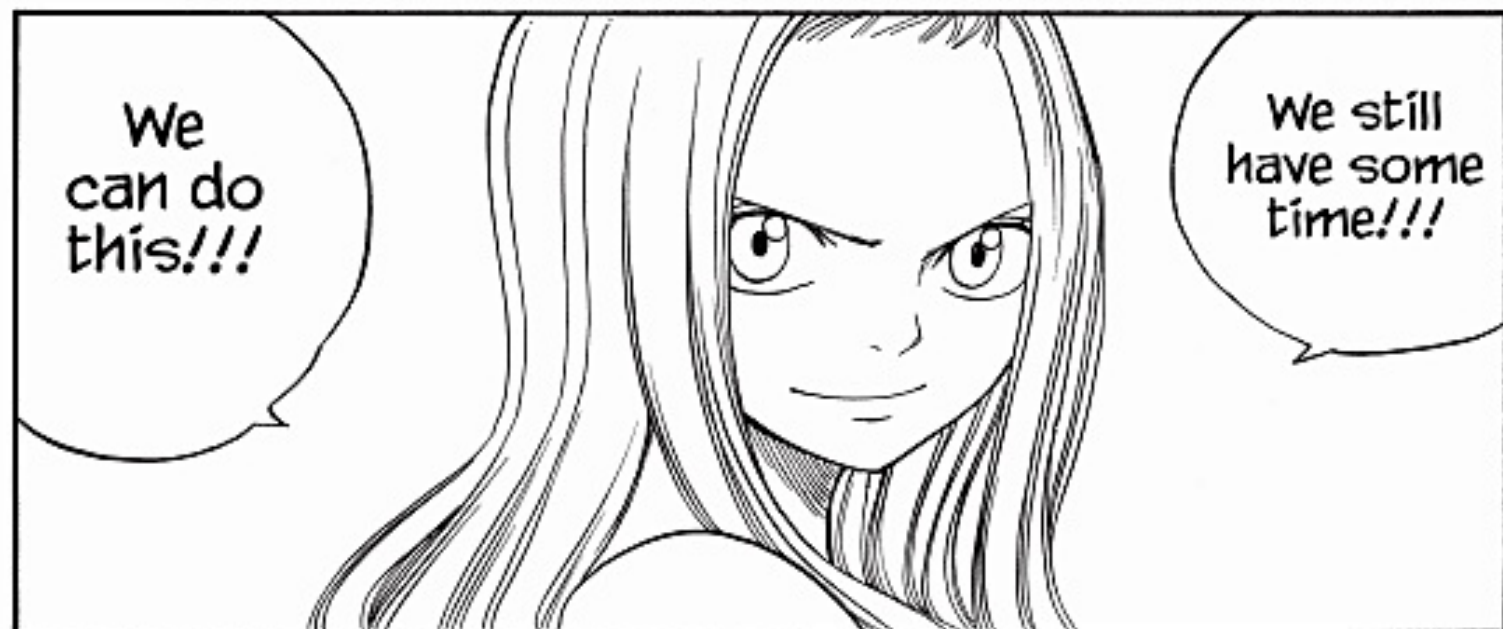
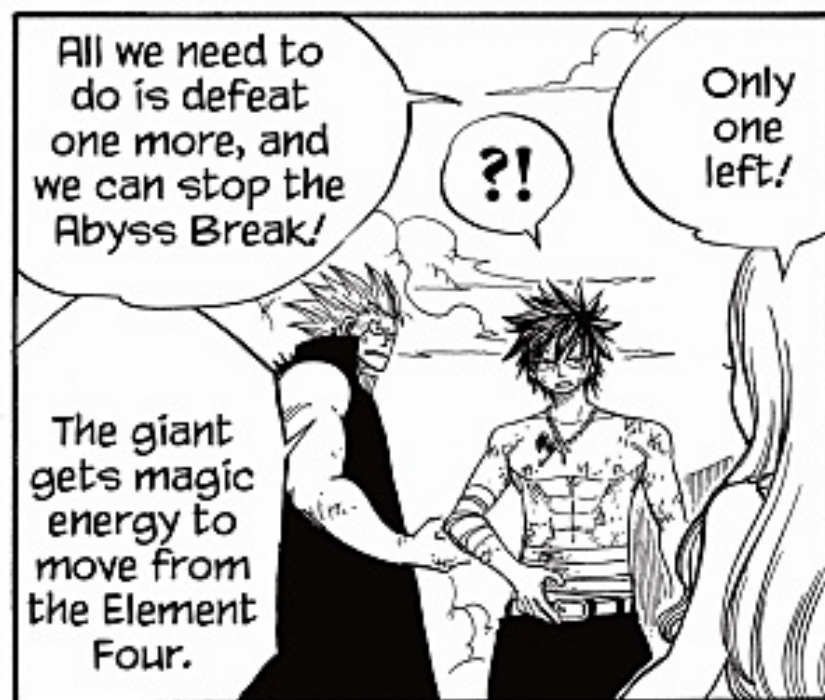
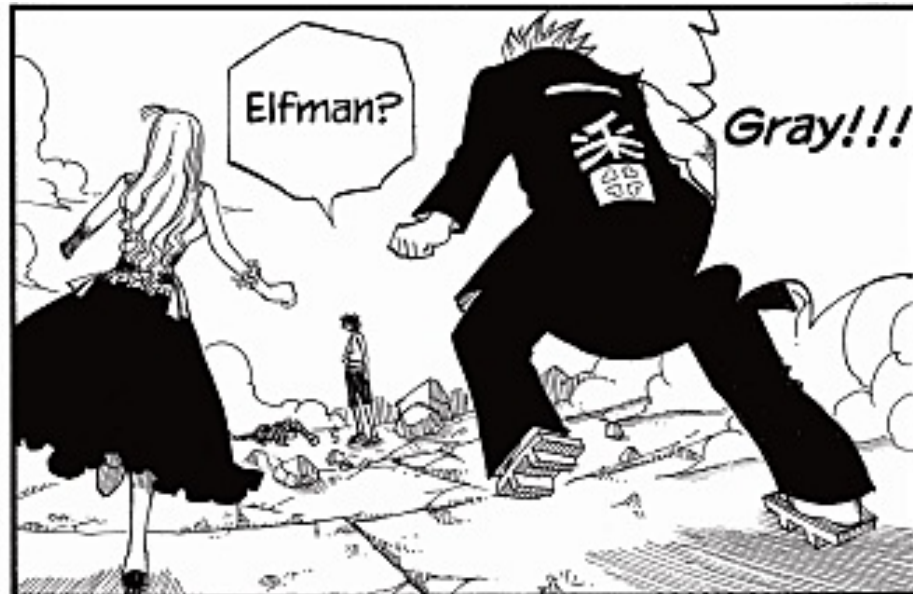


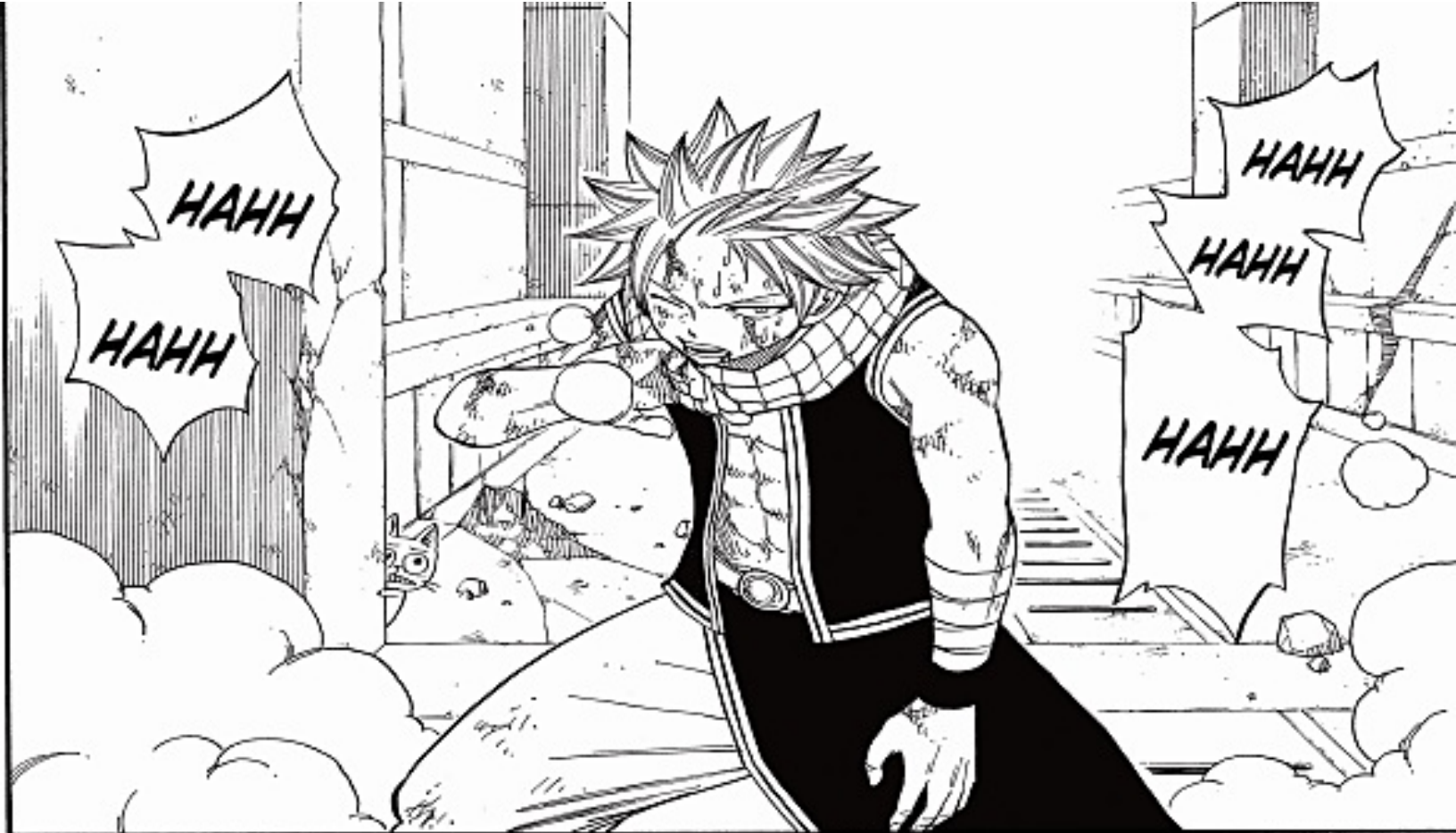
FAIRY TAIL



**Chapter 58: There Is
Always Someone Better**









Gah!

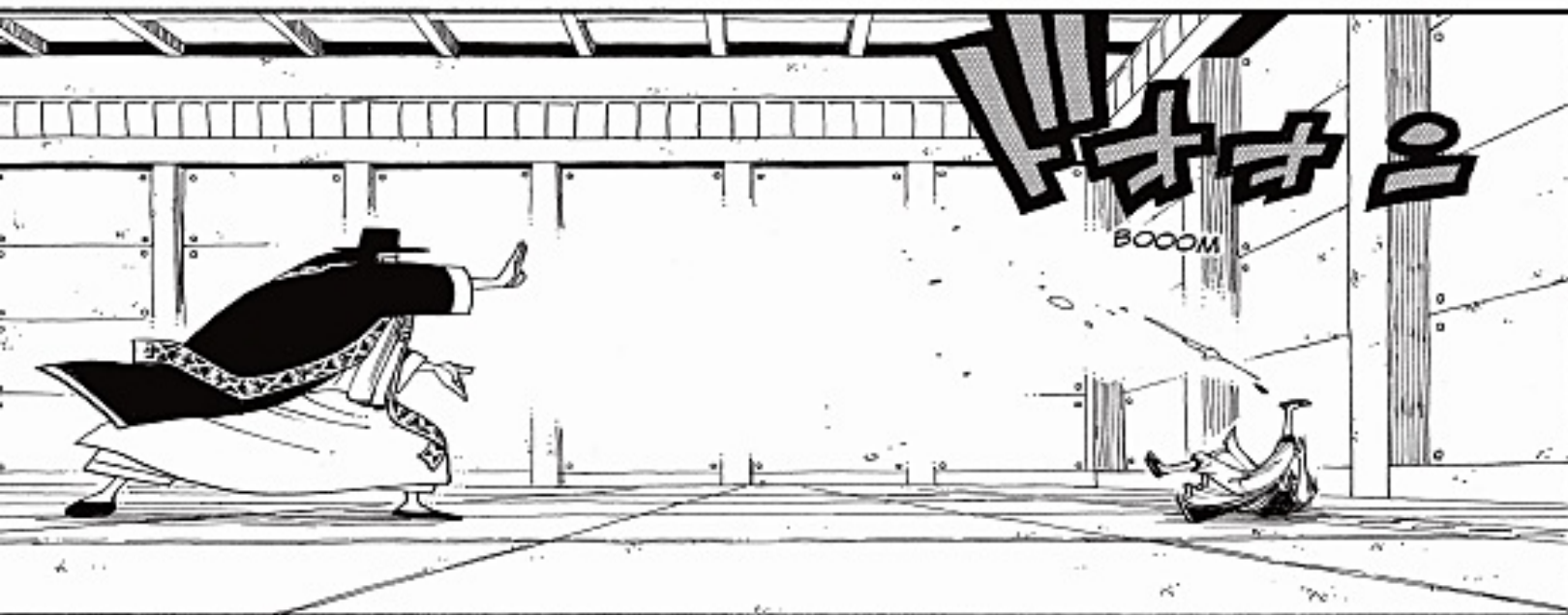


But there is nothing that can stand against my kûiki* magic!

はっ

WHOOSH

*Open Air



Hmm...



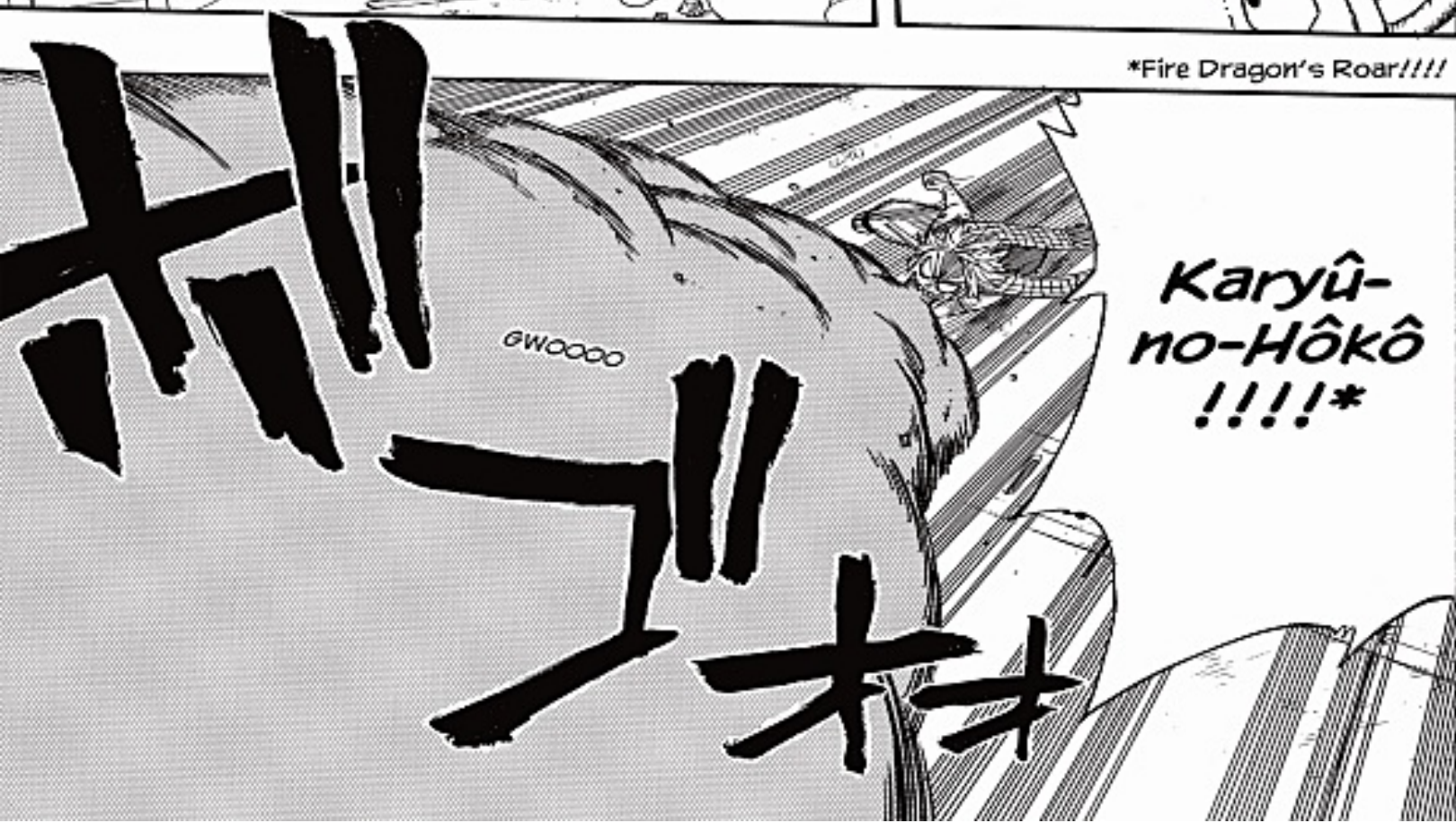
How can anyone beat it?!

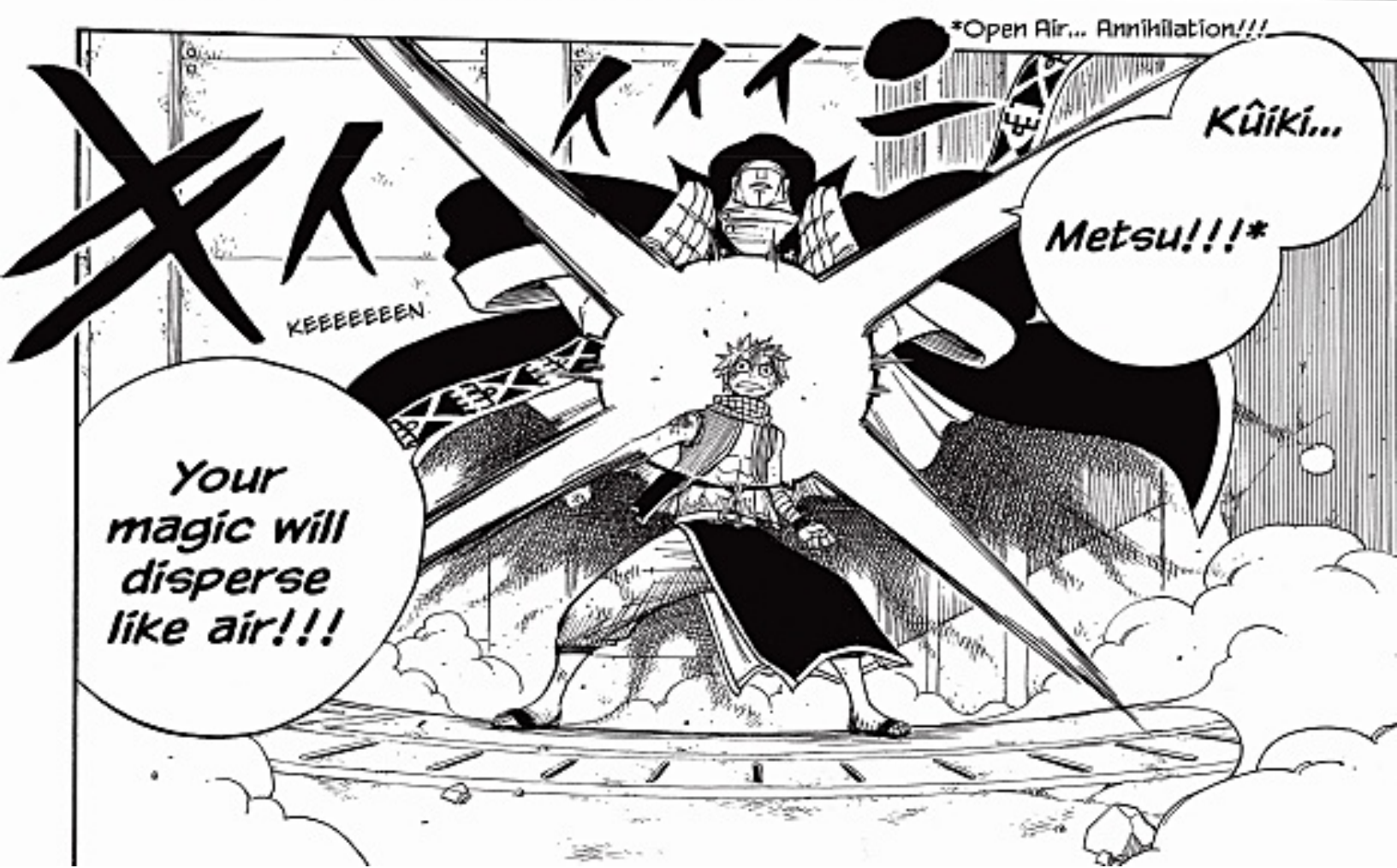
You can't even see his magic!



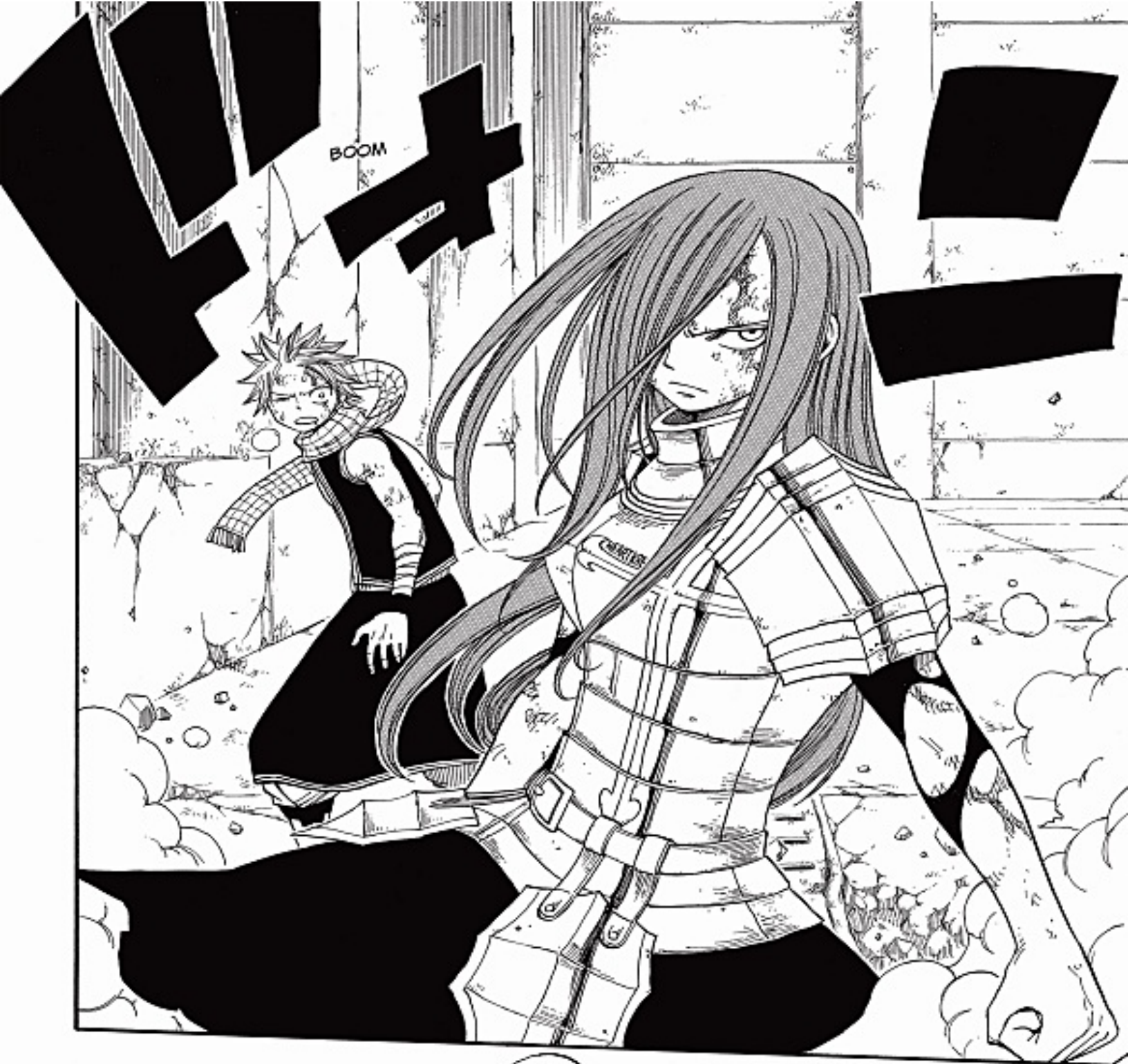


*Open Air... Eradicate!!









What he
did to the
Master...

H-Hey... Are you
sure you should be
moving around...
With your wounds
and all...

HAN
HAN
HAN

I expected only
Salamander's
head, but
Titania offers
me hers as
well...

It is so
sad...

ZNNG

*It's this
man!*

One man
dared to
attack our
father...

Well, if
it's Erza
that I'm
fighting...

Heh
heh
heh...

Erza...



Then I suppose I must get serious.



As long as his eyes are closed, he can keep his enormous magic powers in check.

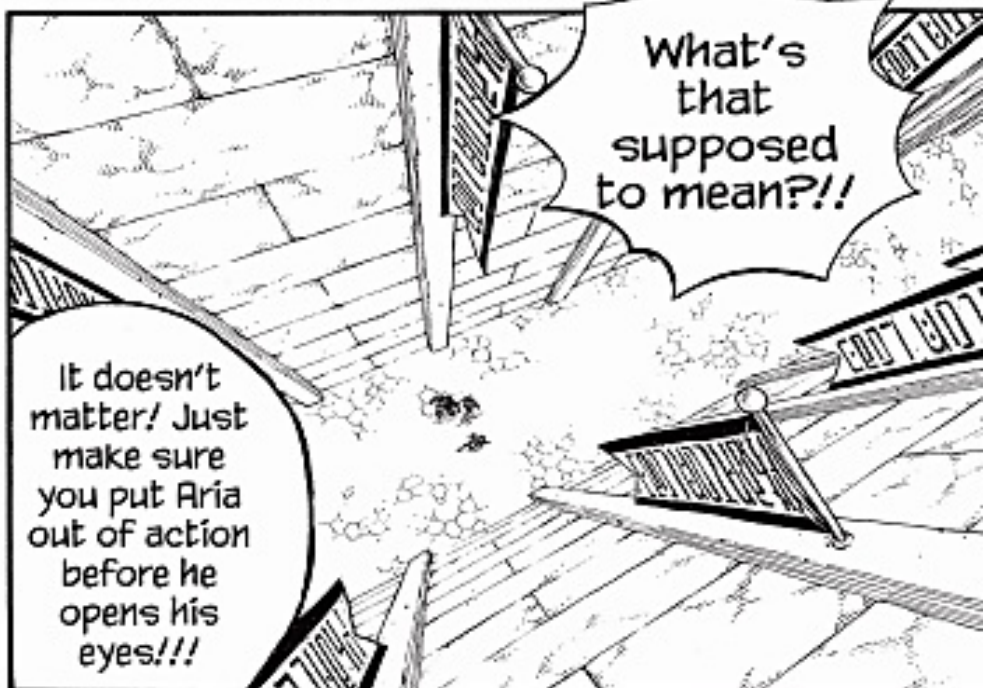
That's right...
Aria usually keeps his eyes closed...



His eyes?!!

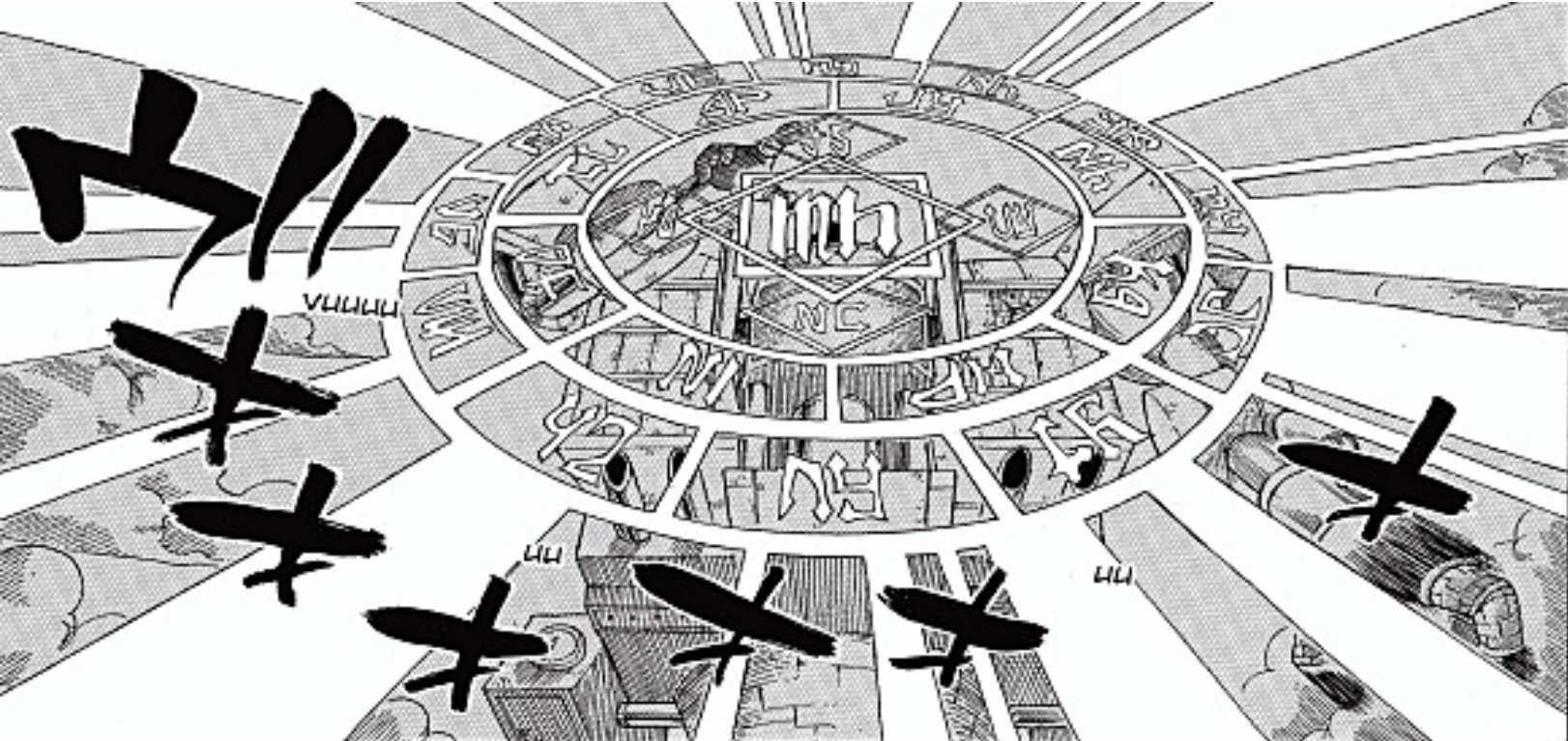


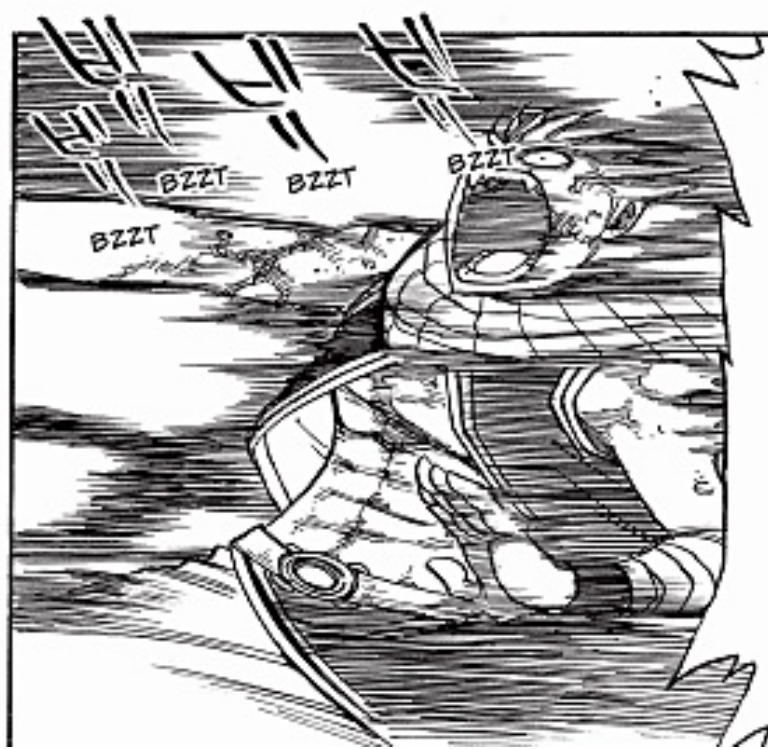
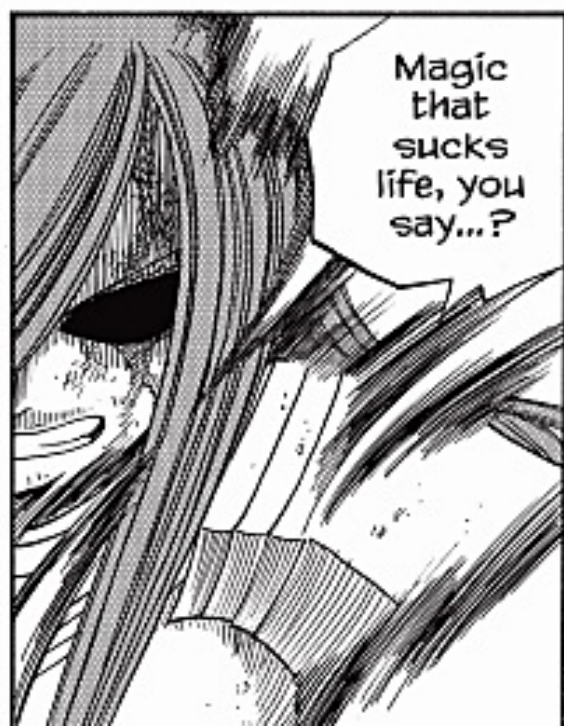
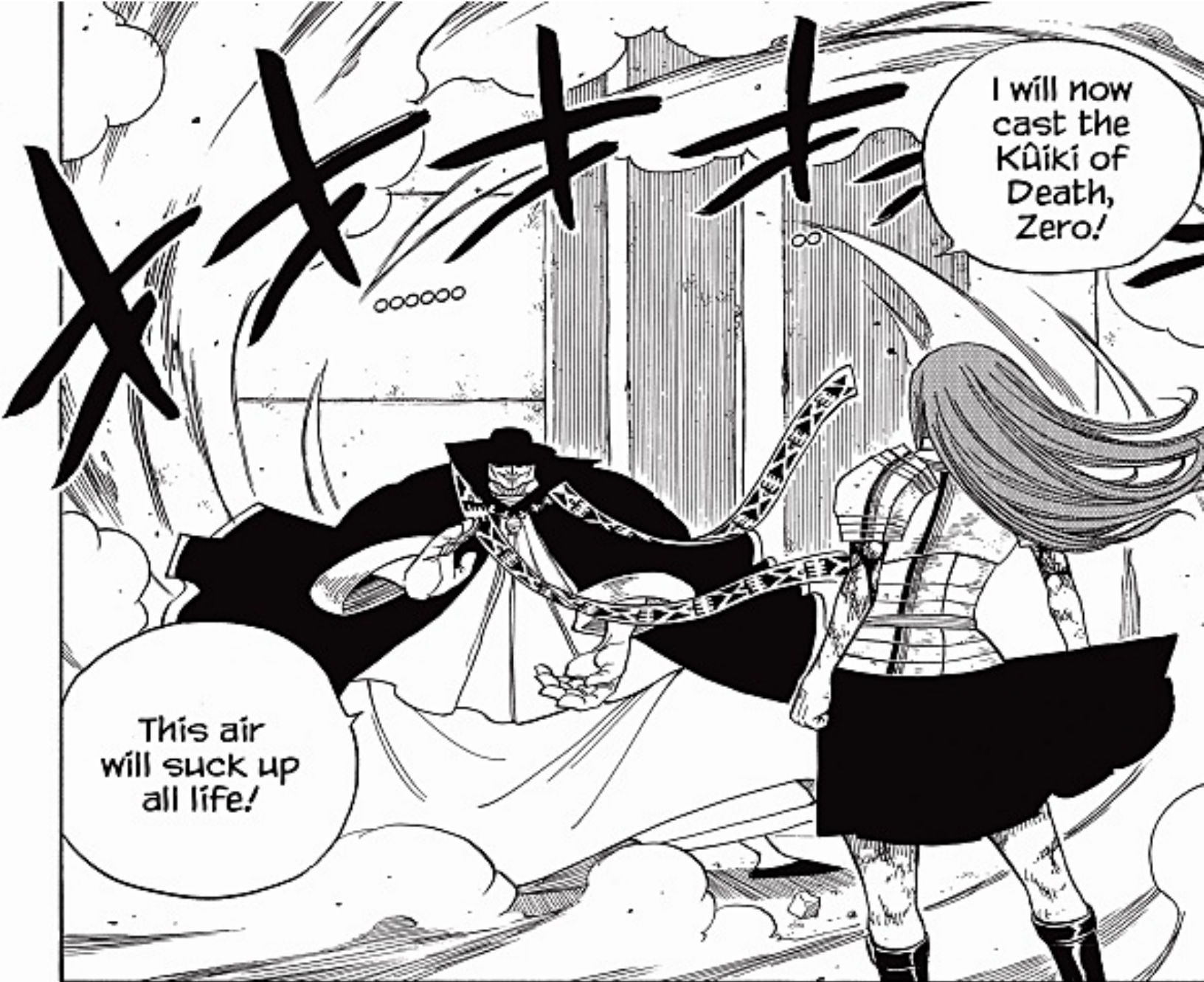
If he gets his eyes open, you may lose your very sanity!!!



What's that supposed to mean?!!

It doesn't matter! Just make sure you put Aria out of action before he opens his eyes!!!

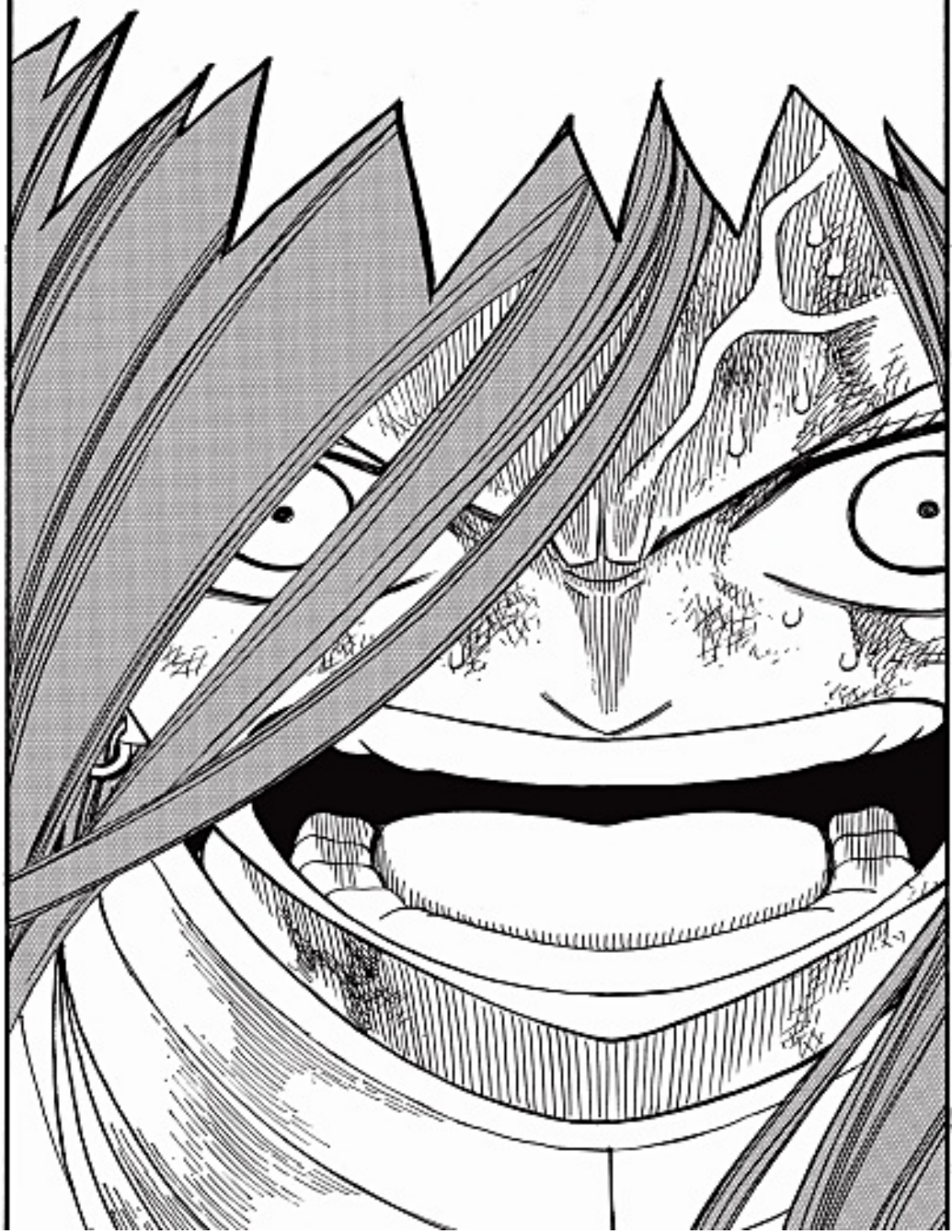


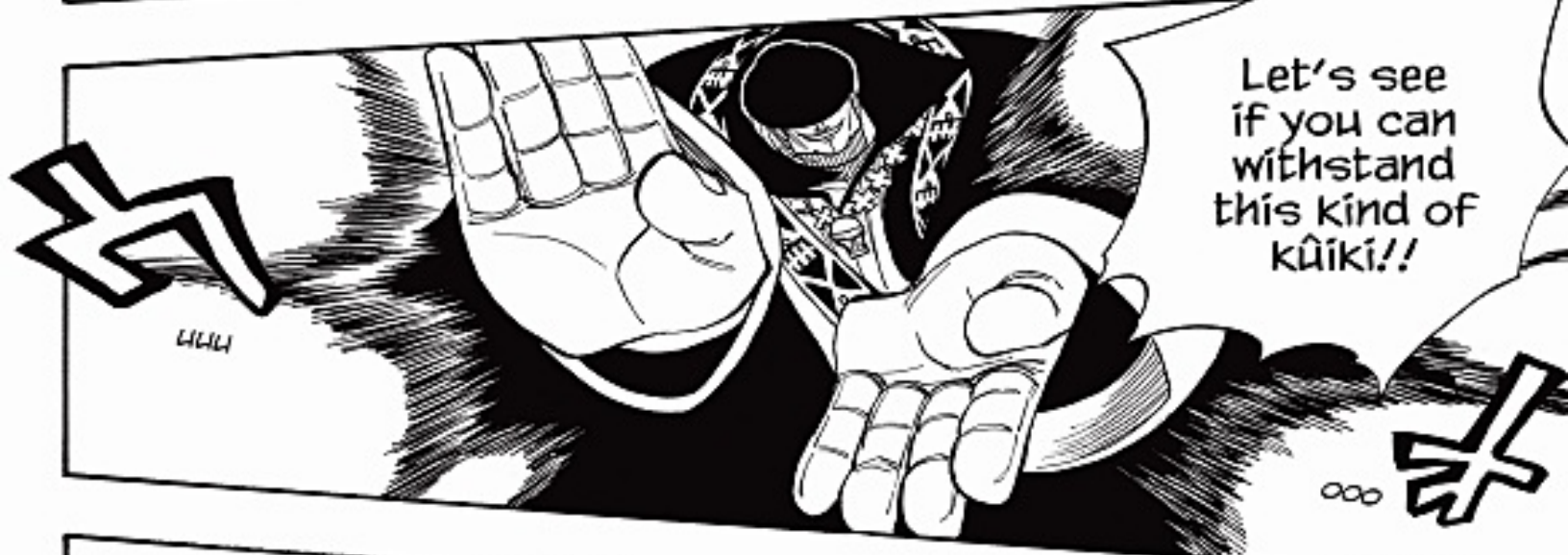


Uwaaaahh!!

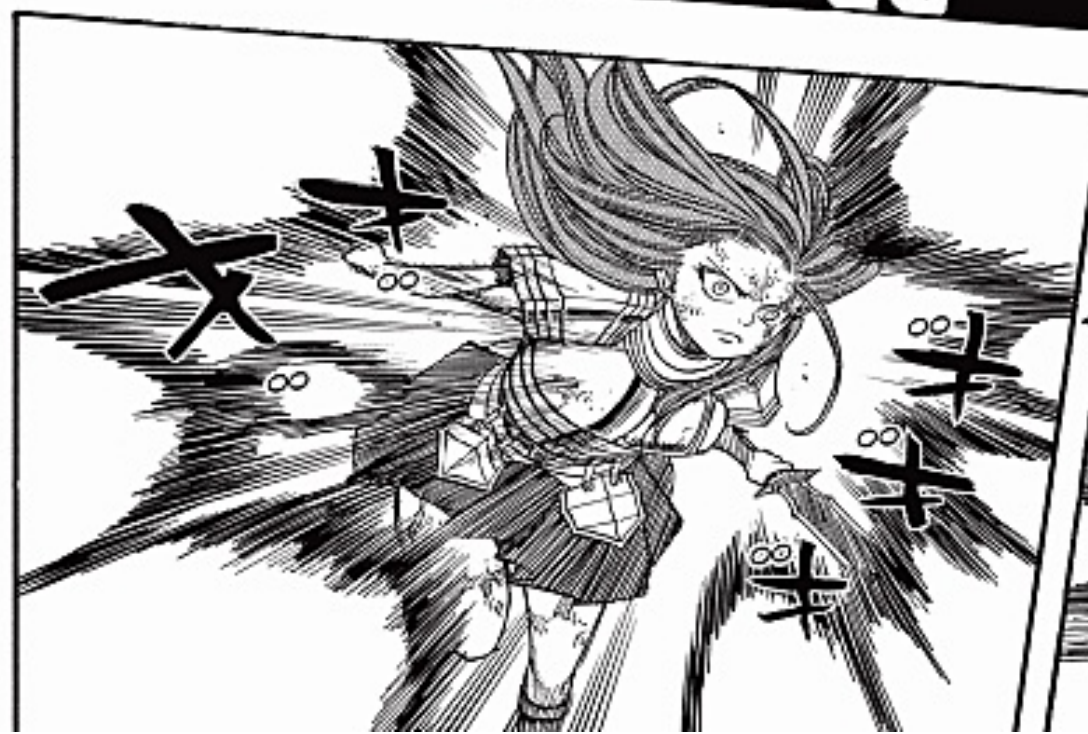
Now
the fun
begins!

*What makes
it so easy for
you cretins to
steal people's
lives?!!!!*

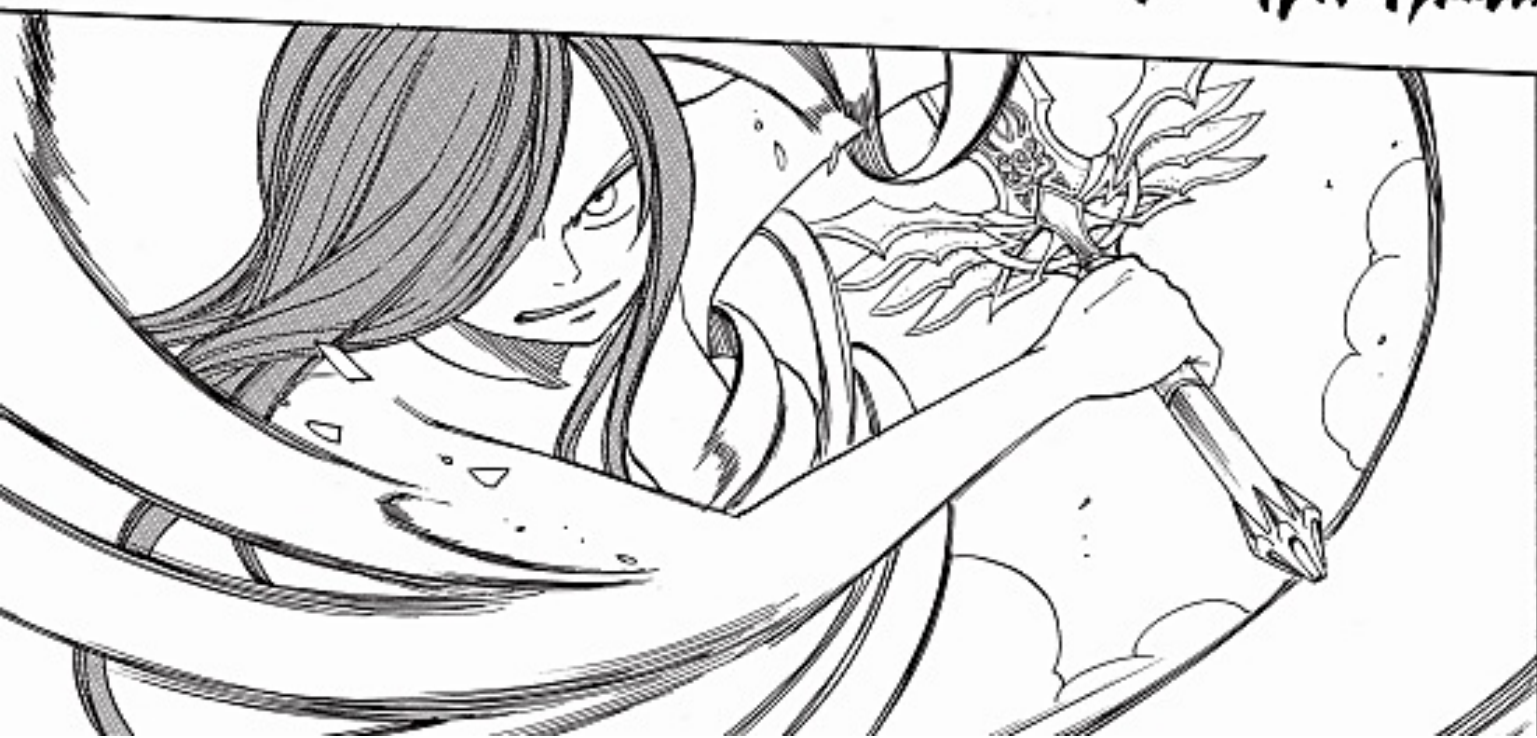
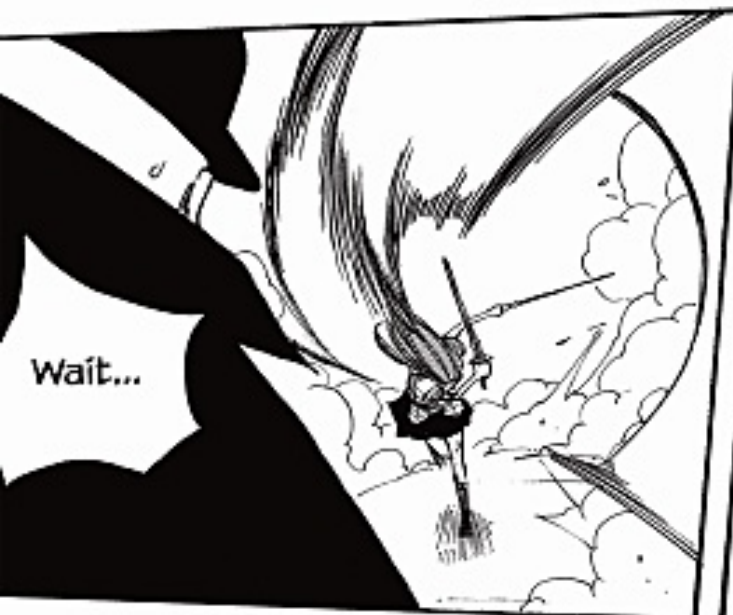




Let's see
if you can
withstand
this kind of
kûiki!!



Erza!!!





ZUKAK

KAK

KAK

KAK

KAK

KAK

Gawhaah!!

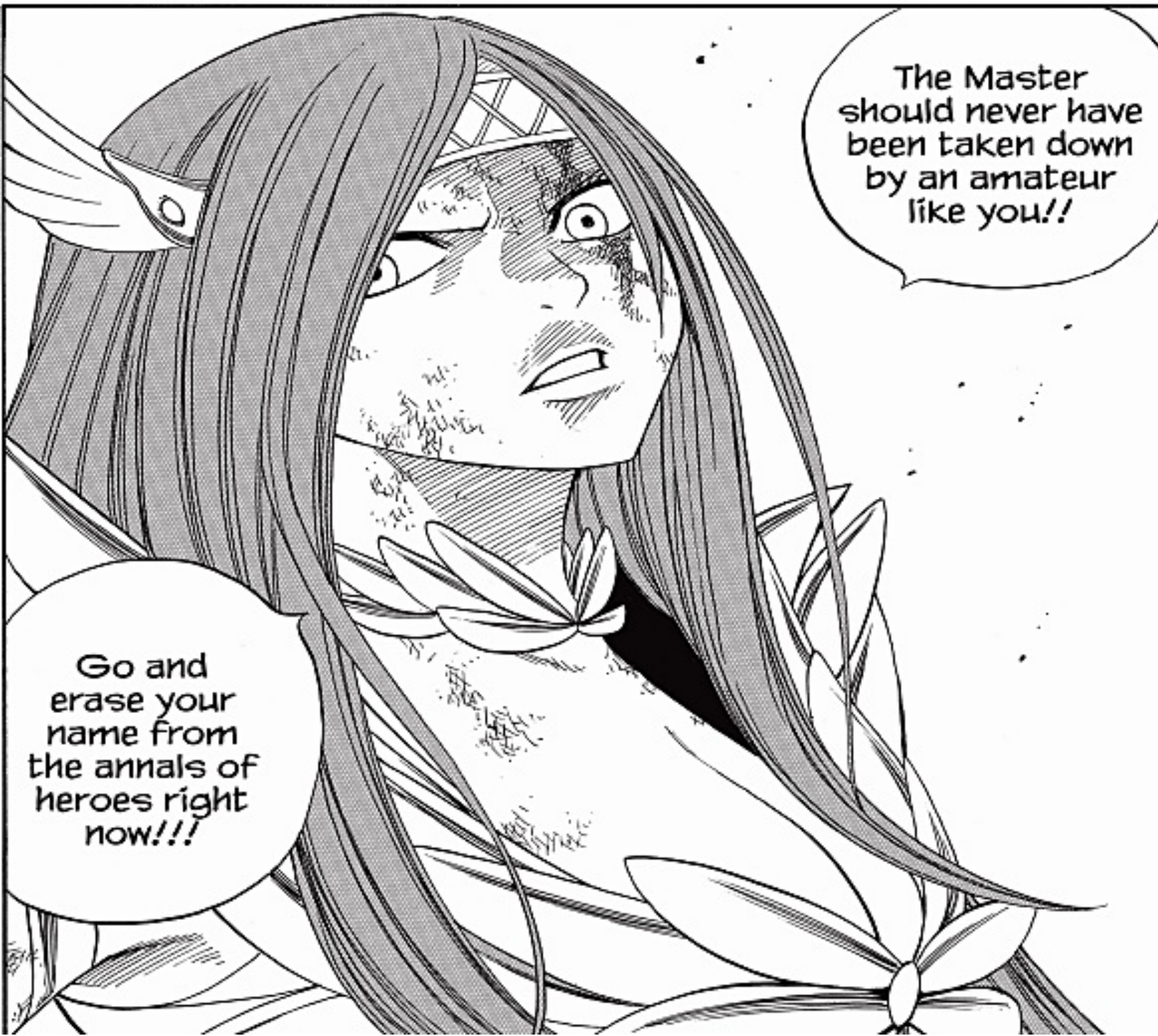


**Tenrin
Blumenbrat
!!!!***

***Wheel of Heaven:
Scattered Petals!!!!**



ZUWAM



Go and
erase your
name from
the annals of
heroes right
now!!!

The Master
should never have
been taken down
by an amateur
like you!!

FAIRY & TAIL



FAIRY TAIL

Name: Max Alors

Age: 17 yrs.

Magic: Sand Storm

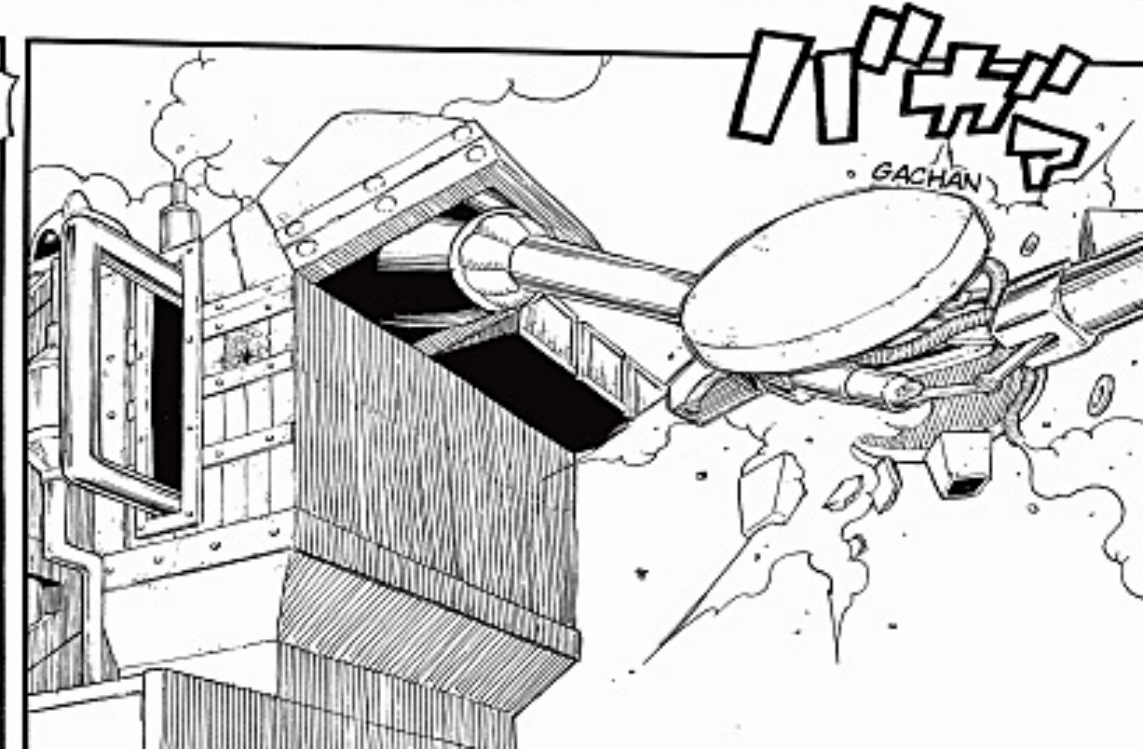
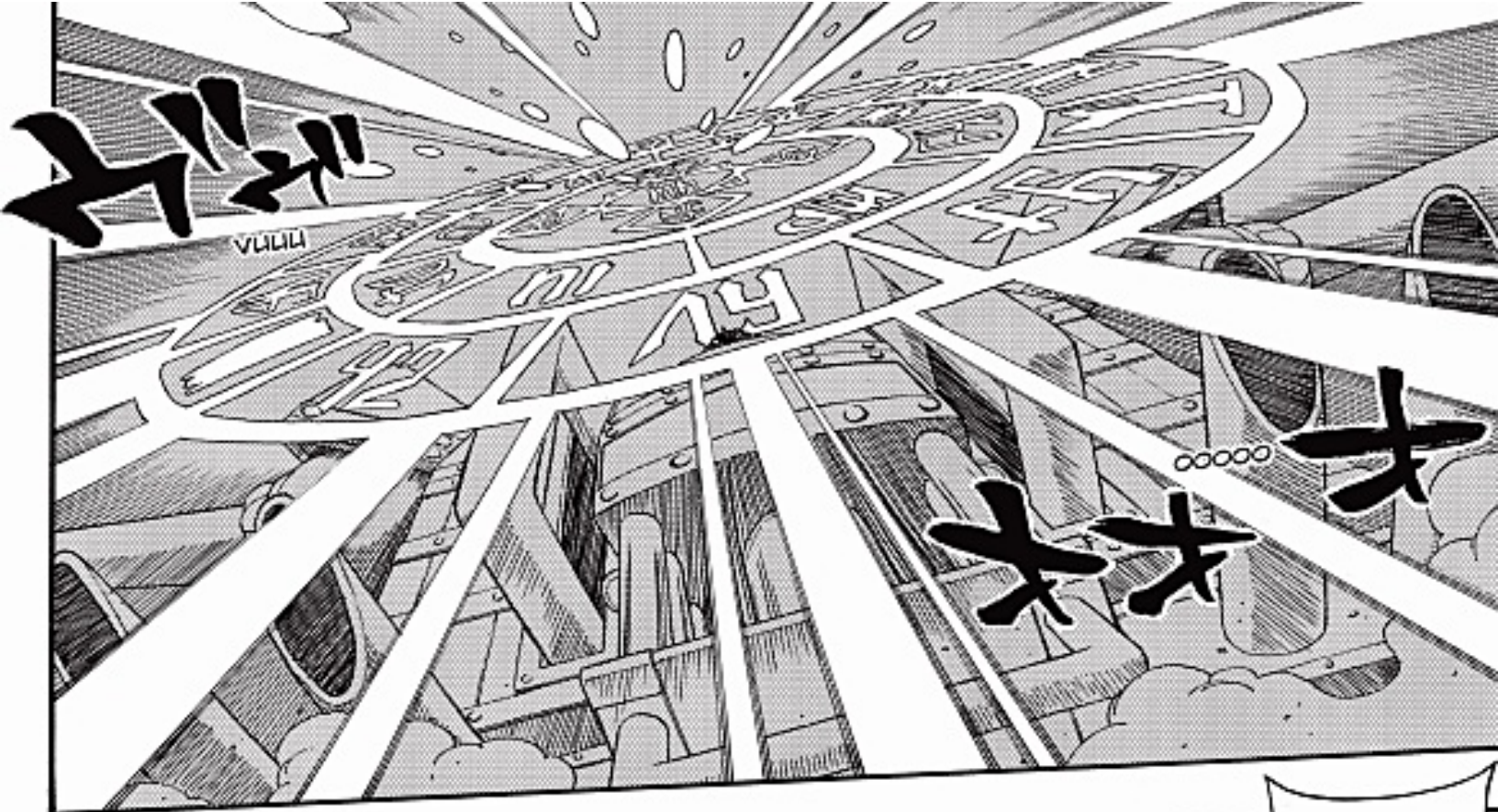
Likes: Bars

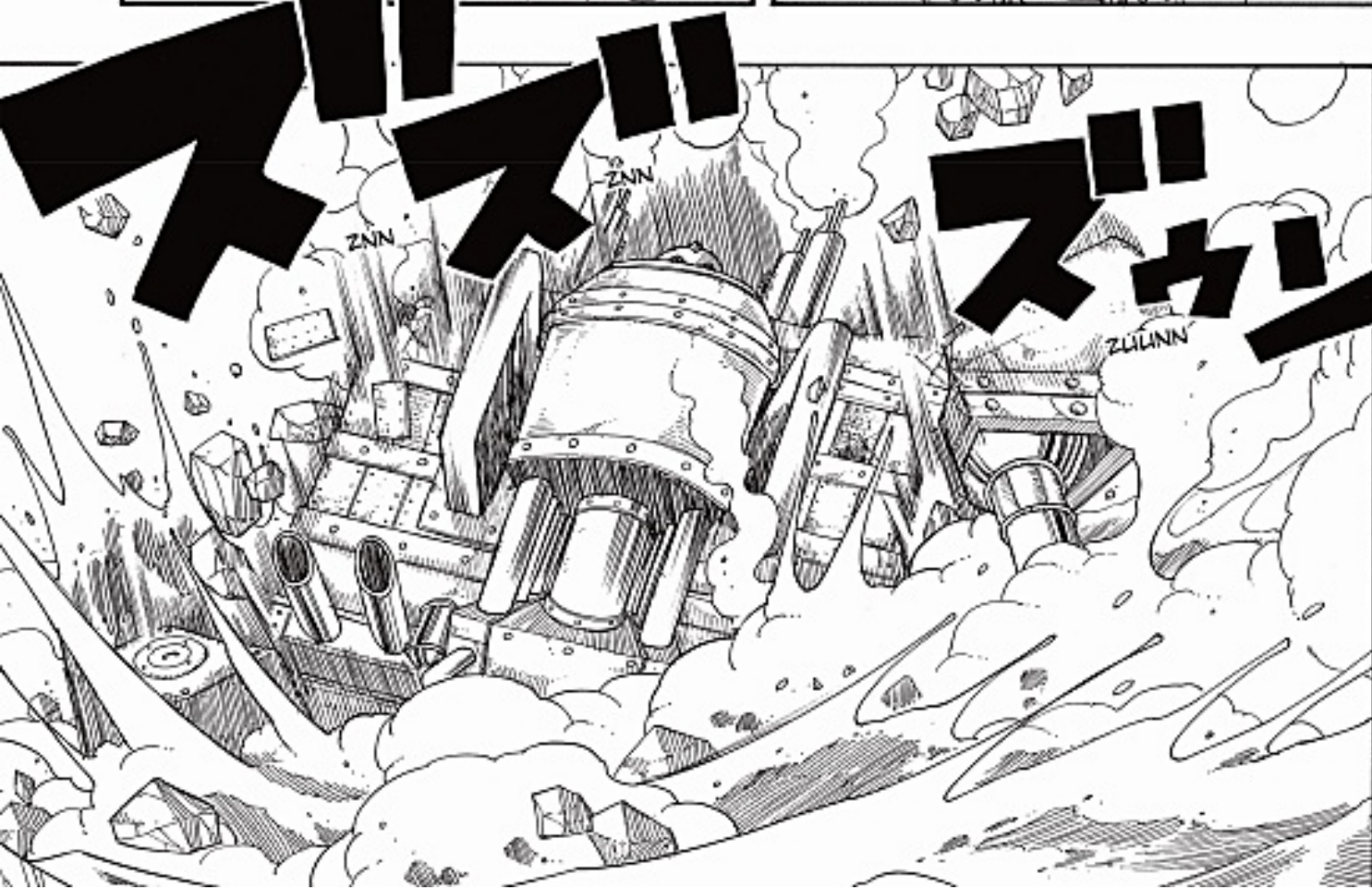
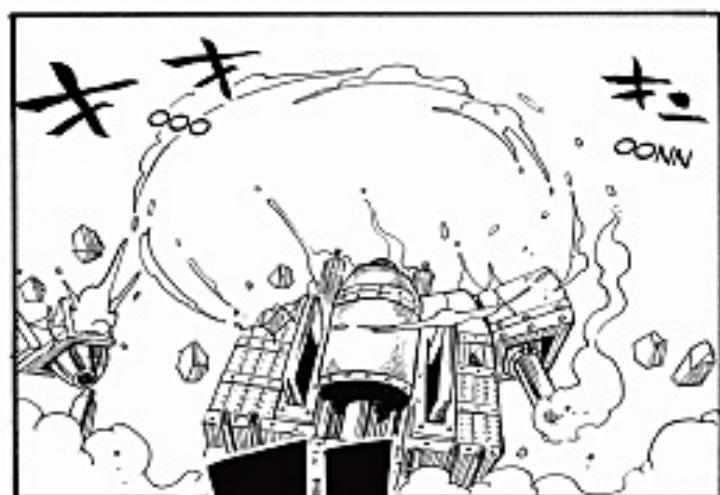
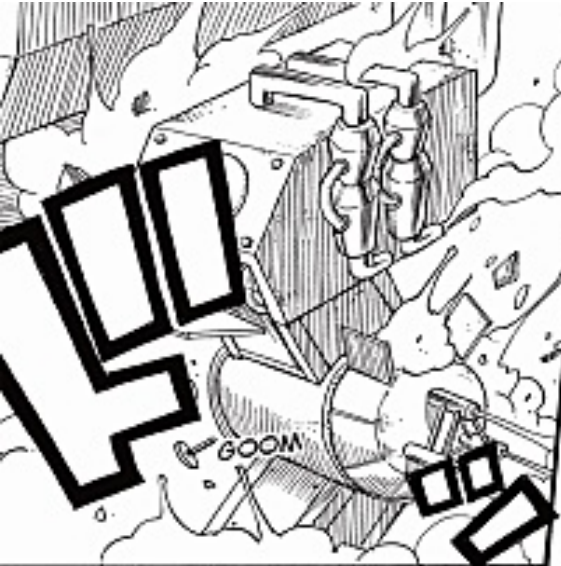
Dislikes: Being Alone



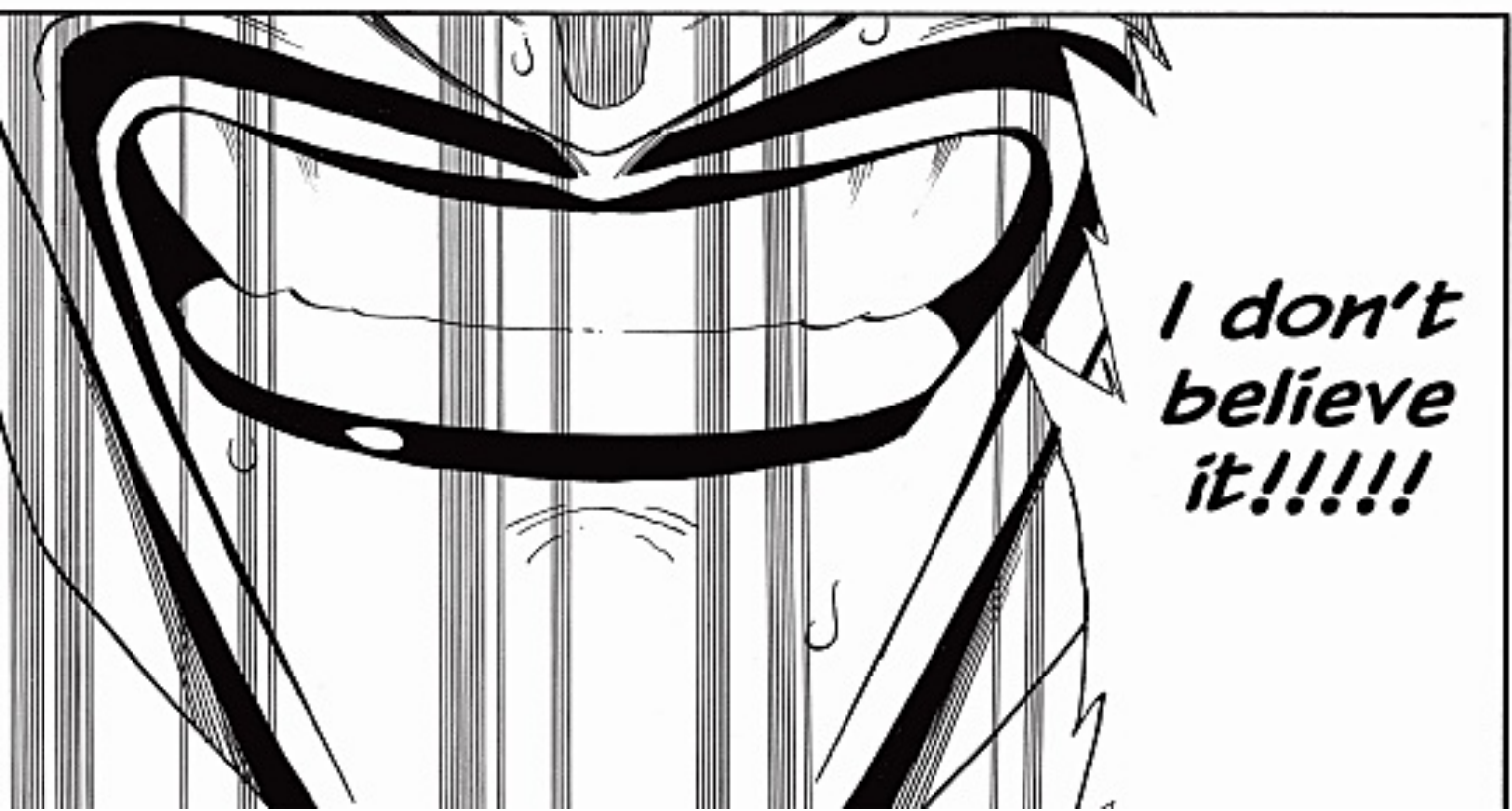
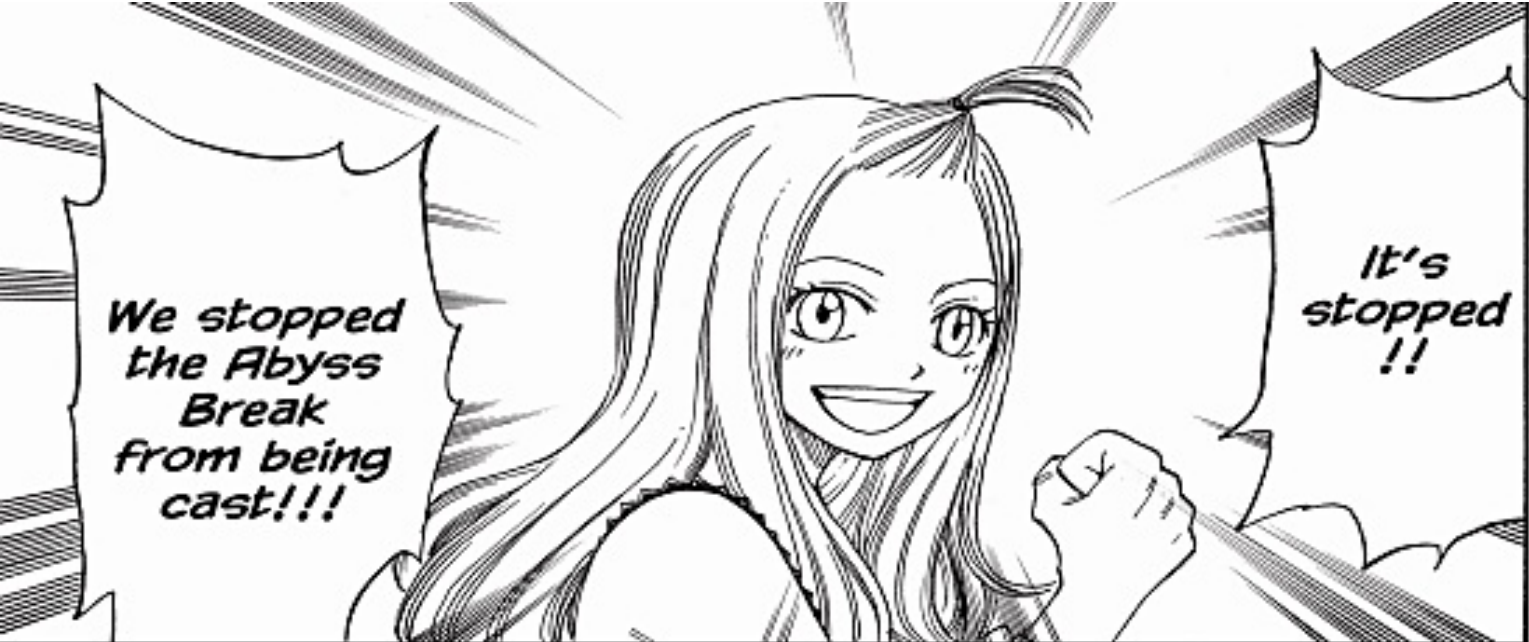
Remarks

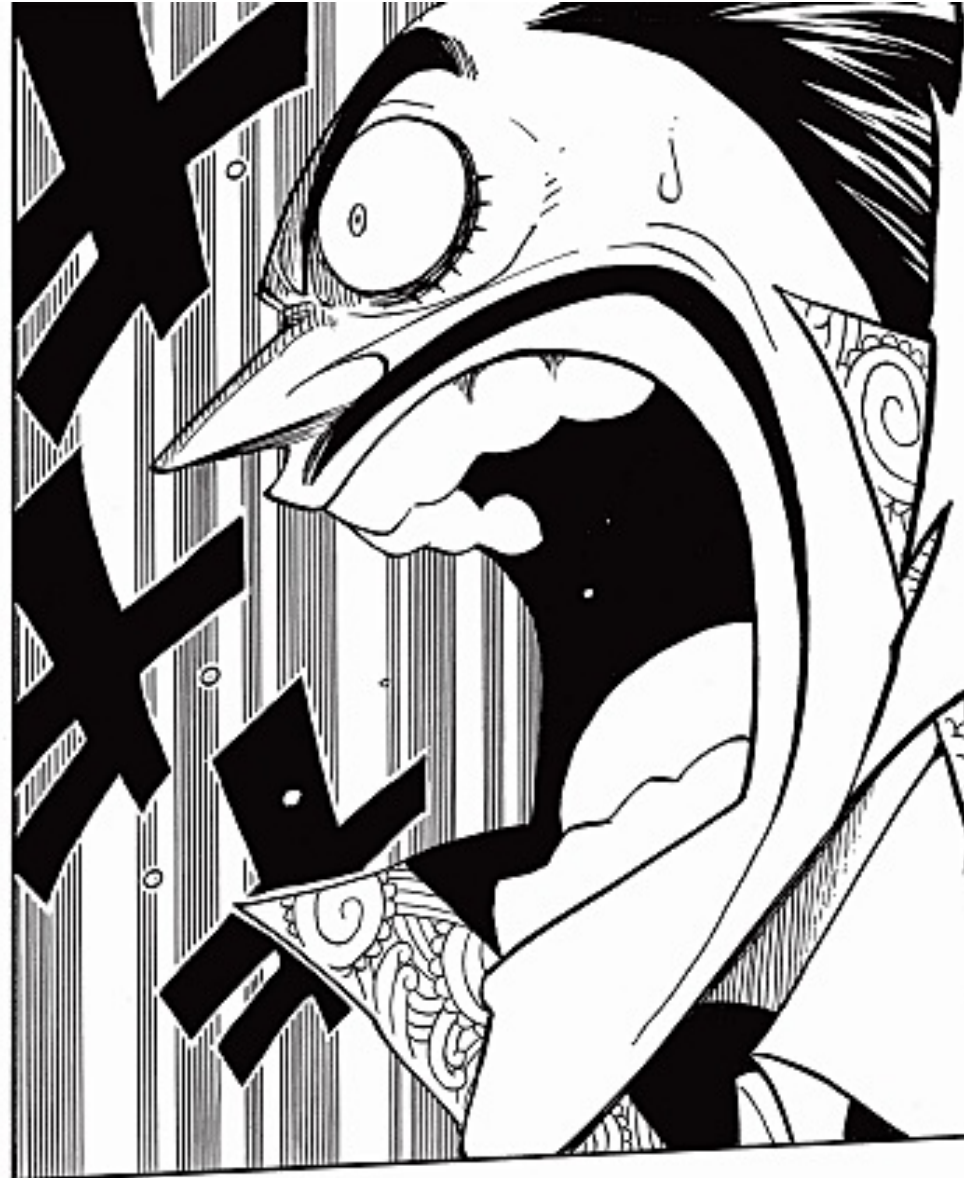
A wizard who specializes in sand magic. He loves to talk to people, and he usually can be found anyplace where people like to gather. Actually, he can't hold his liquor very well, but he tends to go with the flow and always drinks too much. Every time, he regrets it the next day. As a reaction to his generally friendless childhood, he spends as much time as he can in conversation, but nobody knows of his past.











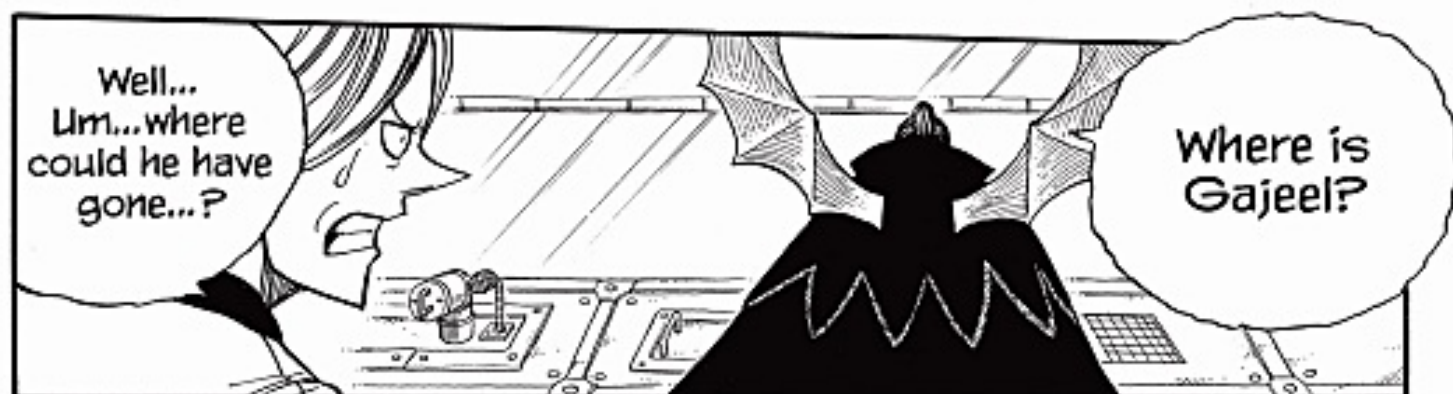
*Are you
trying to tell
me that the
Element Four
were wiped
out by that
Fairy Tail
trash?!!!*



There's
gotta
be some
kind of
mistake...

Rah!!

Oh
no...



Well...
Um...where
could he have
gone...?

Where is
Gajeel?

So the Element
Four were taken out?
If they were defeated
by that garbage, then
they must have been
garbage themselves!

Gee
hee
hee!

I'm right
here,
Master!

If it was going to
turn out this way
anyway, then you
should have put
me on the front
lines from the
start.

BOOM

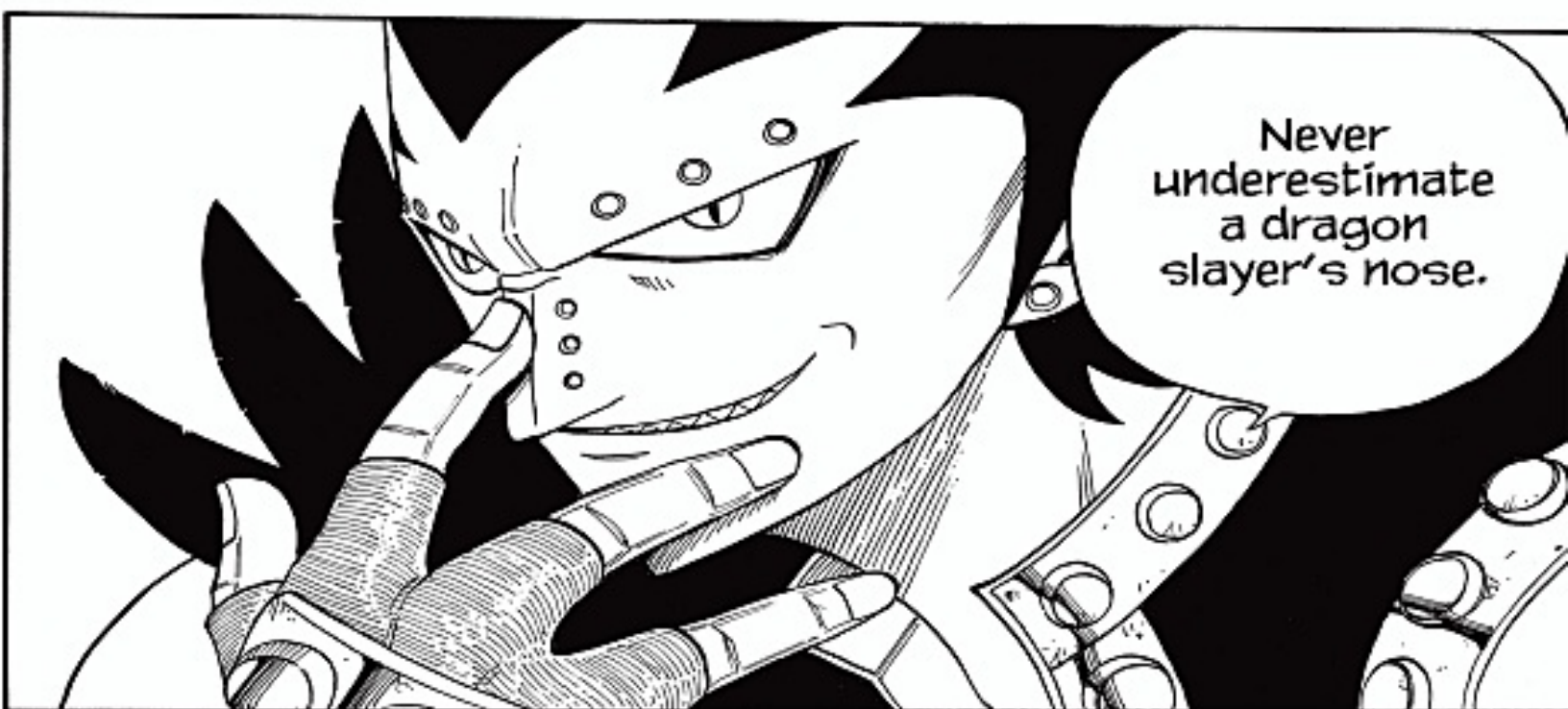


You brought Lucy?!

How?!



I brought you a present, Master.



Never underestimate a dragon slayer's nose.

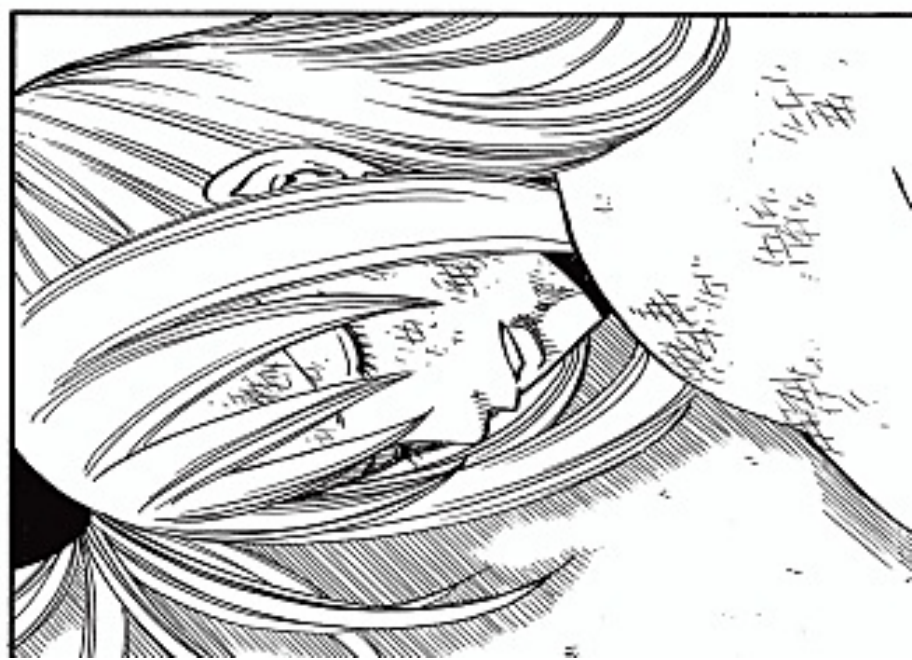


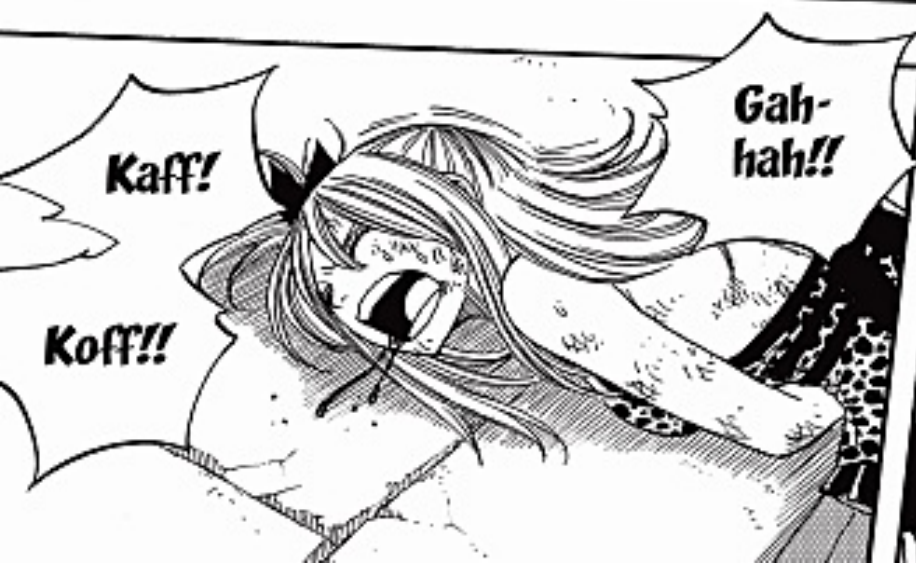
We won't get any money out of this if she winds up dead!

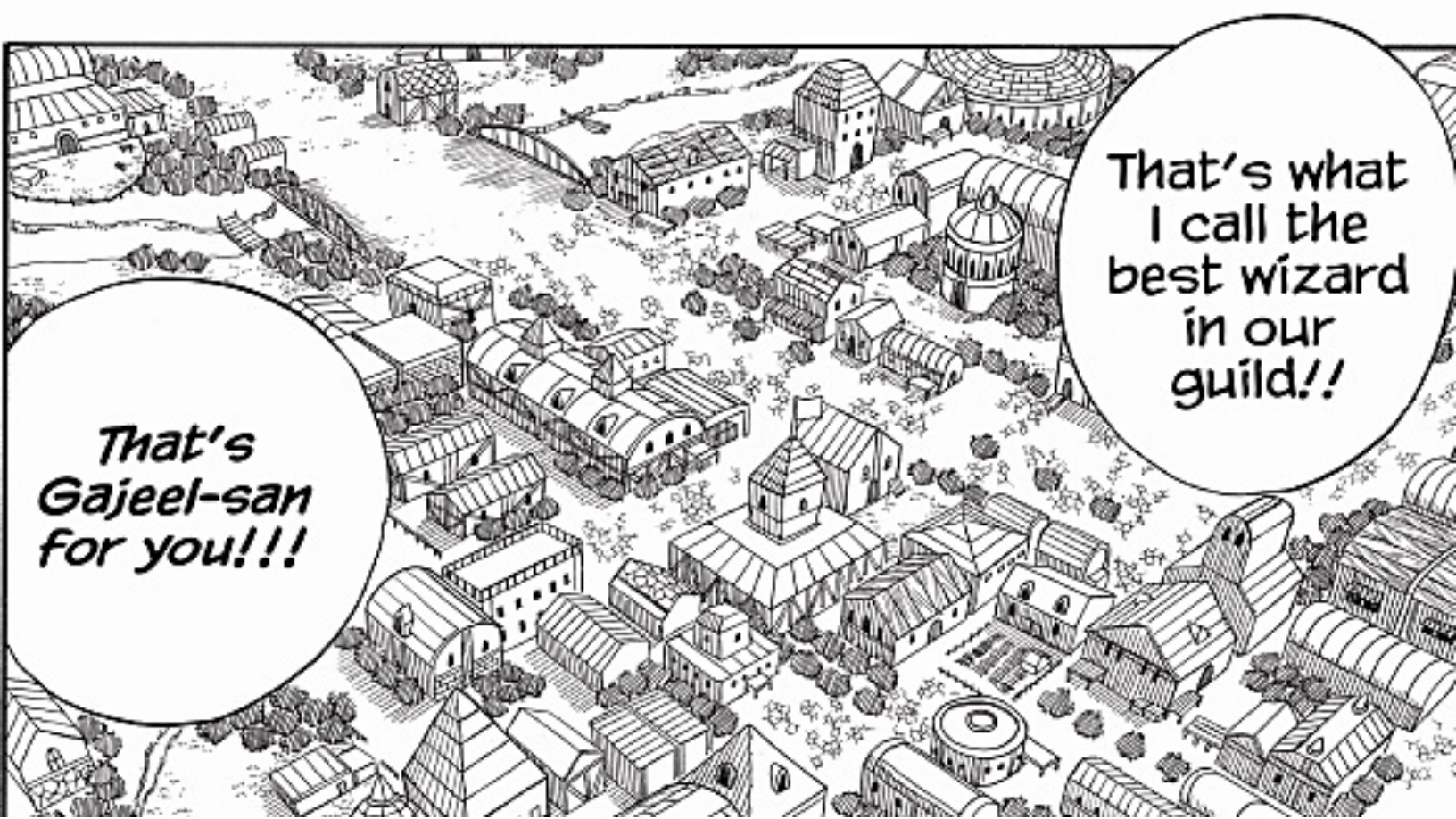
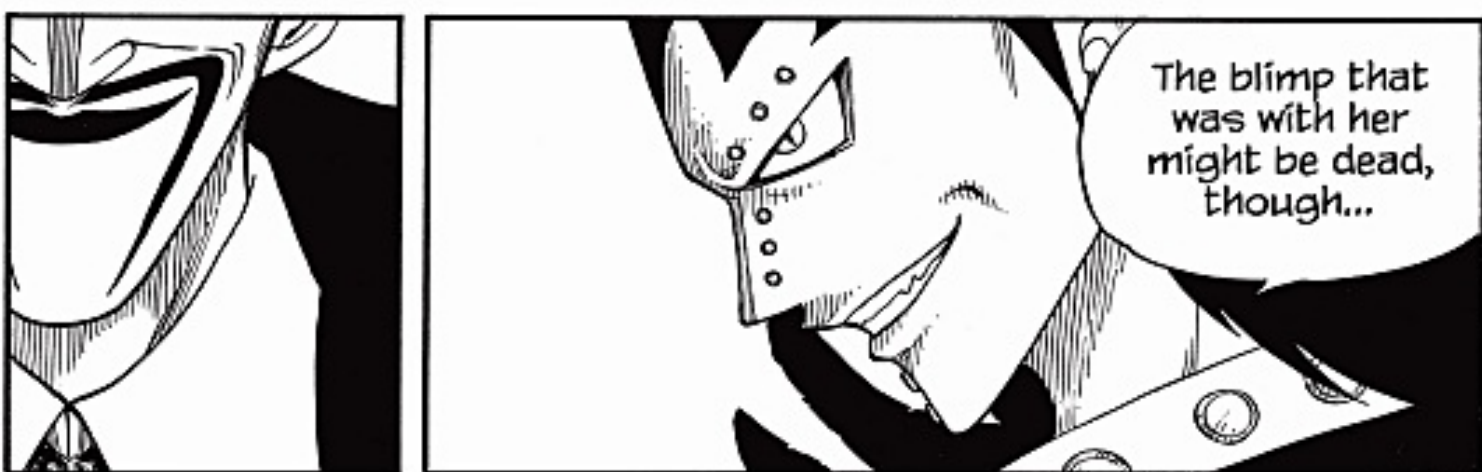
Sh-She's alive... right...?

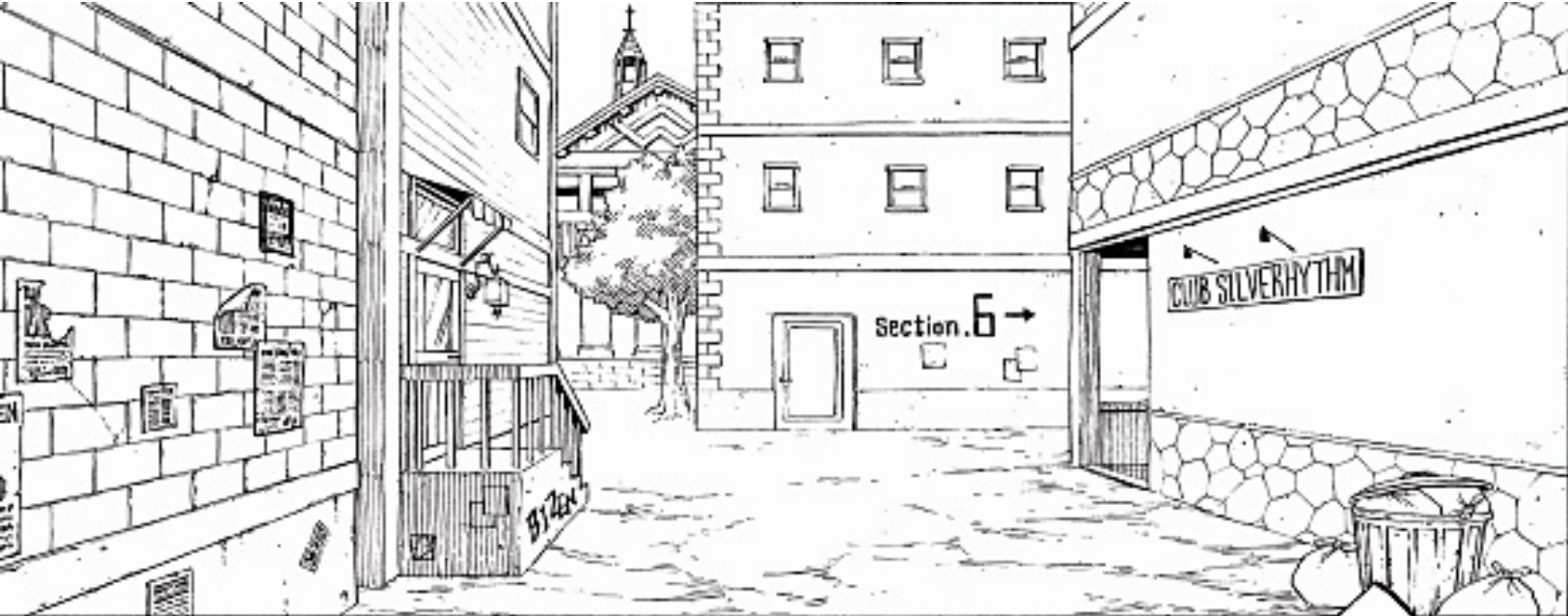
But... Gajeel-san...

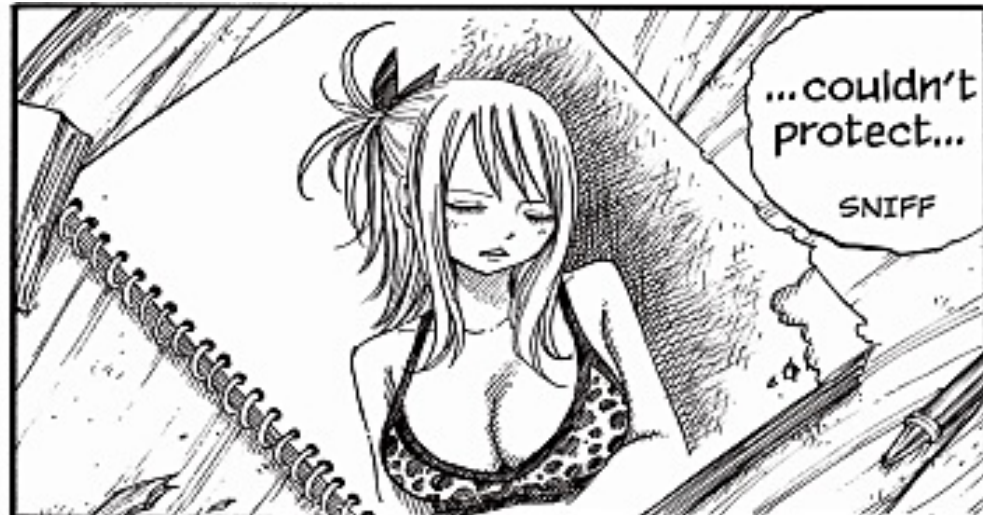
KO-TYA

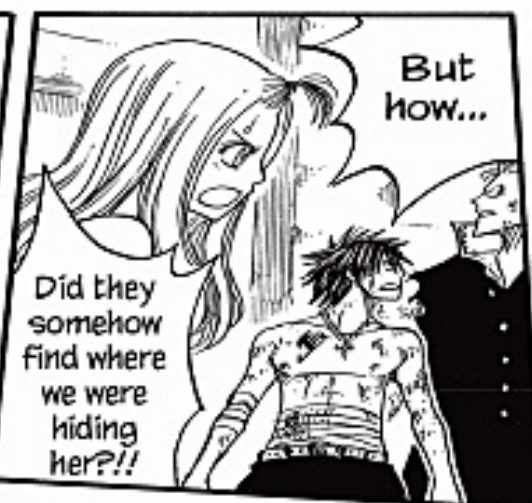
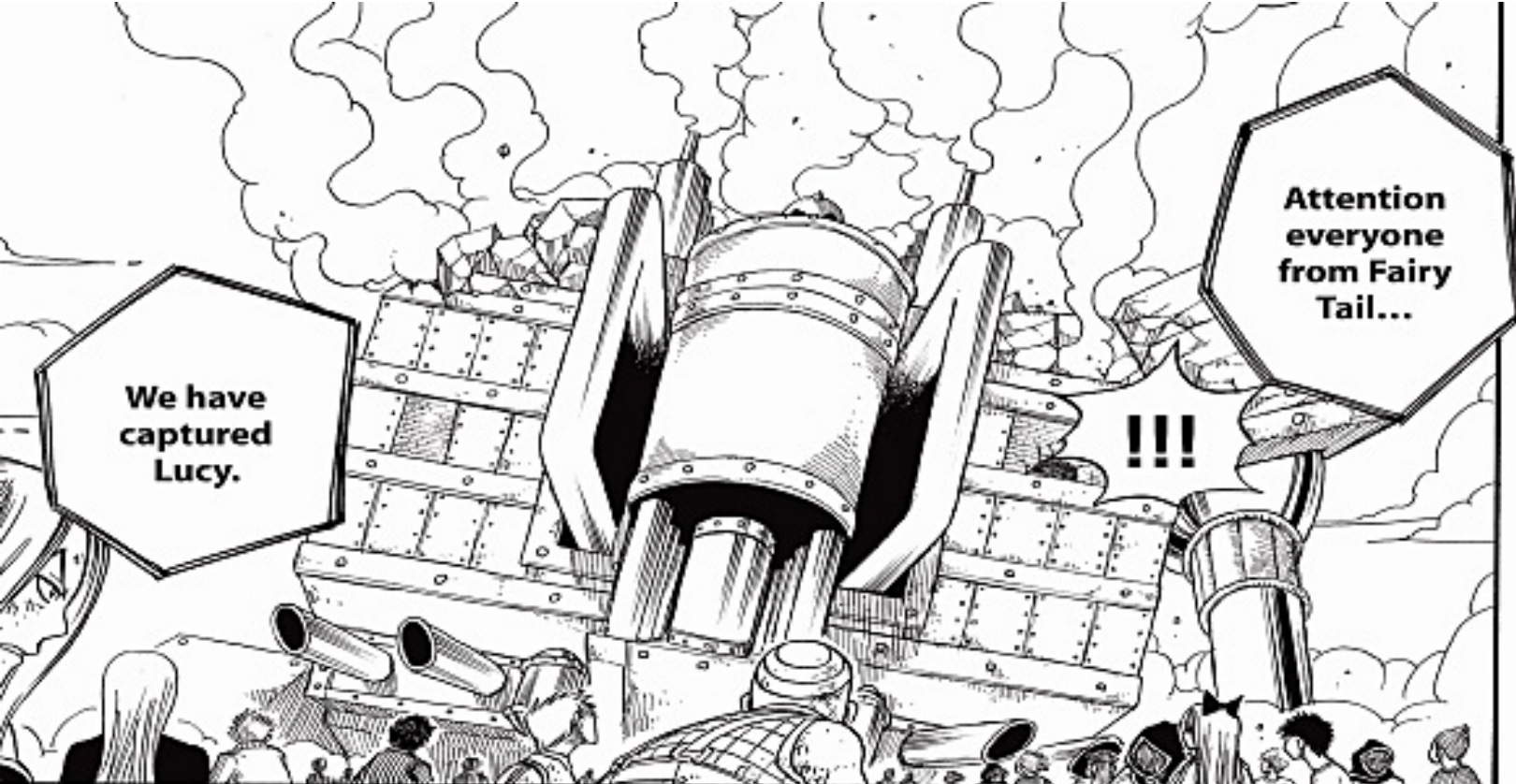














Hey!!!
What are
you doing
to Lucy?!!

That's
Lucy's
voice...

Huh?!

K
y
a
a
a
a
!!!!

WHAM



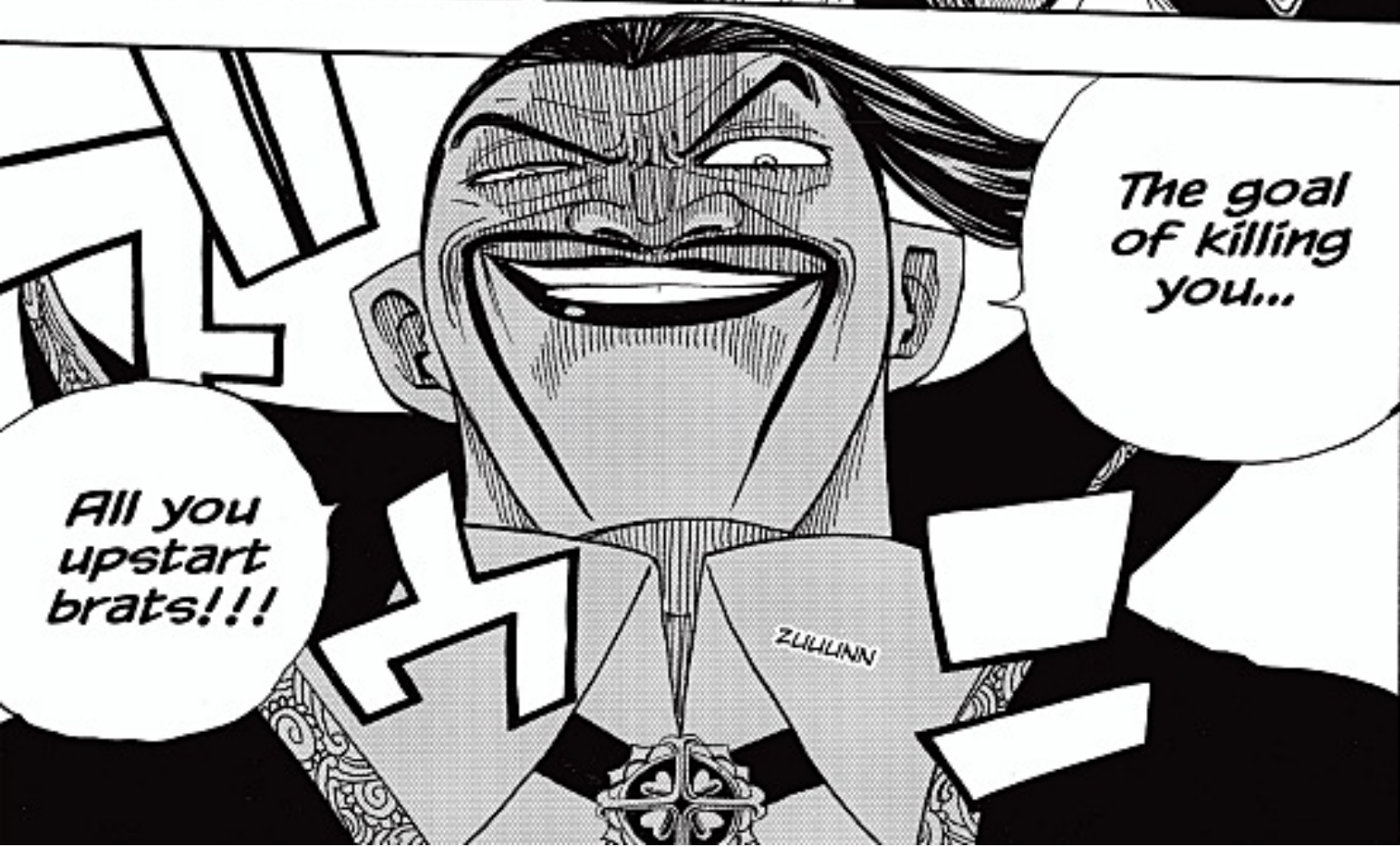
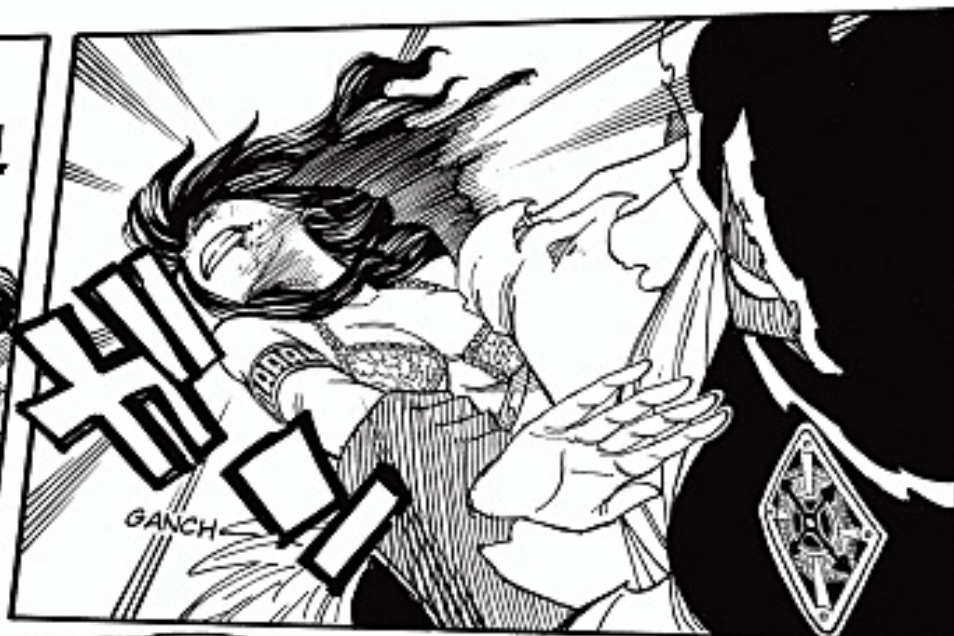
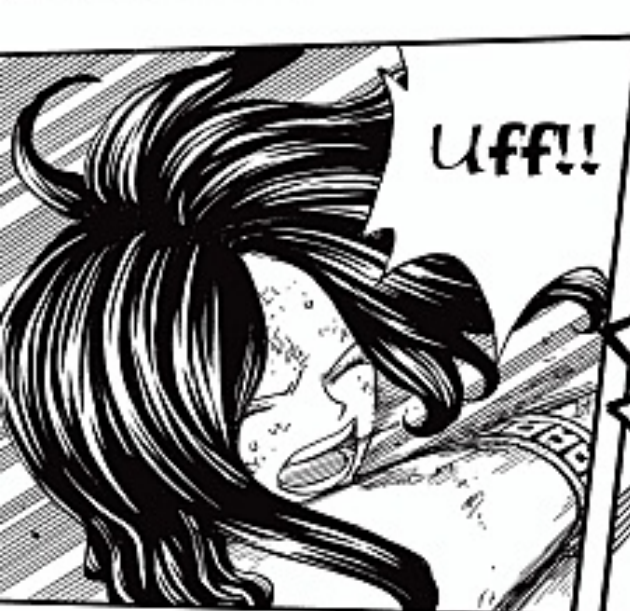
Did you
hear
that?



Stop
it...!!!

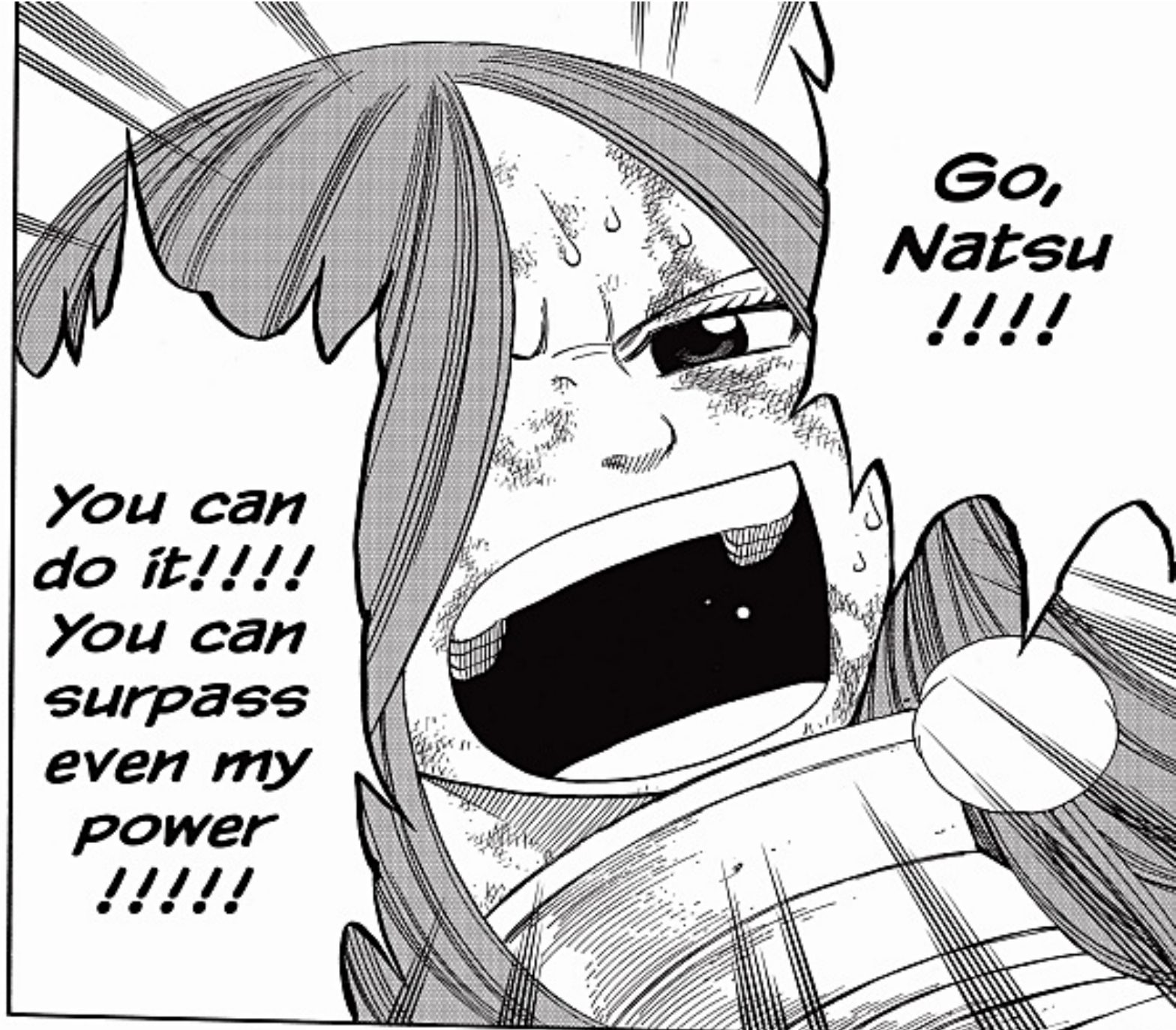


That means
we have only
one goal left.



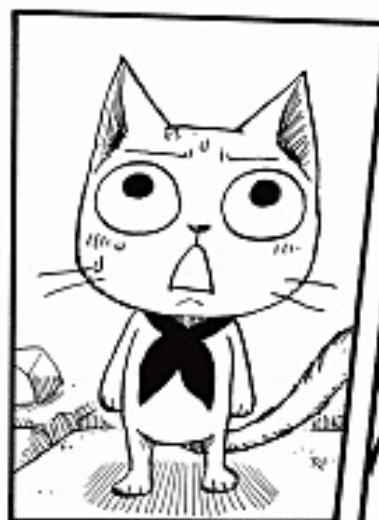




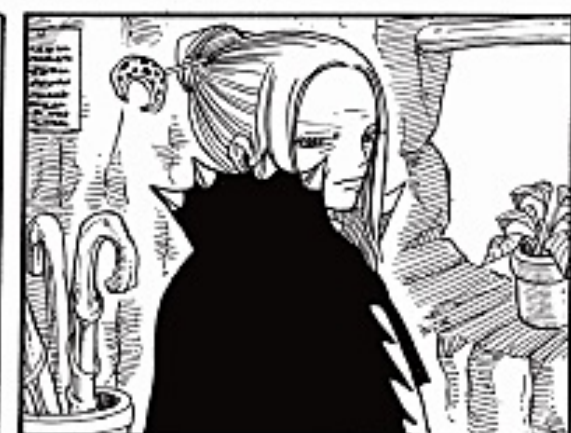
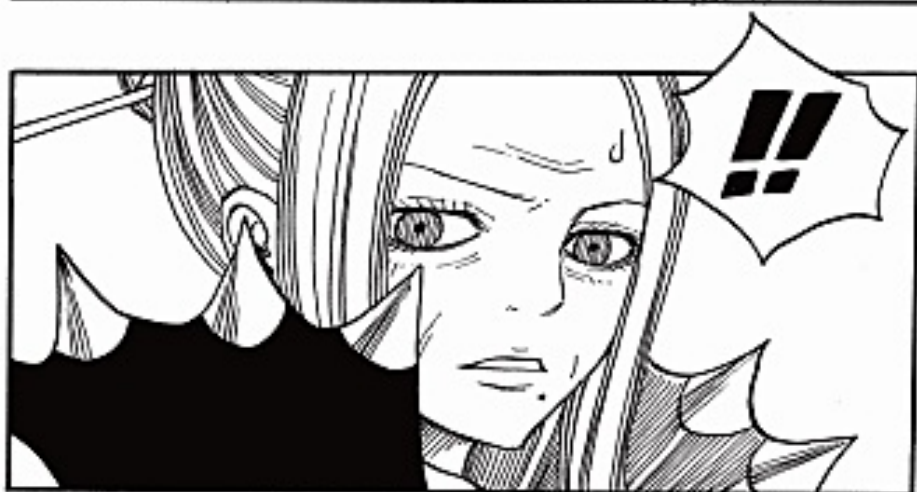
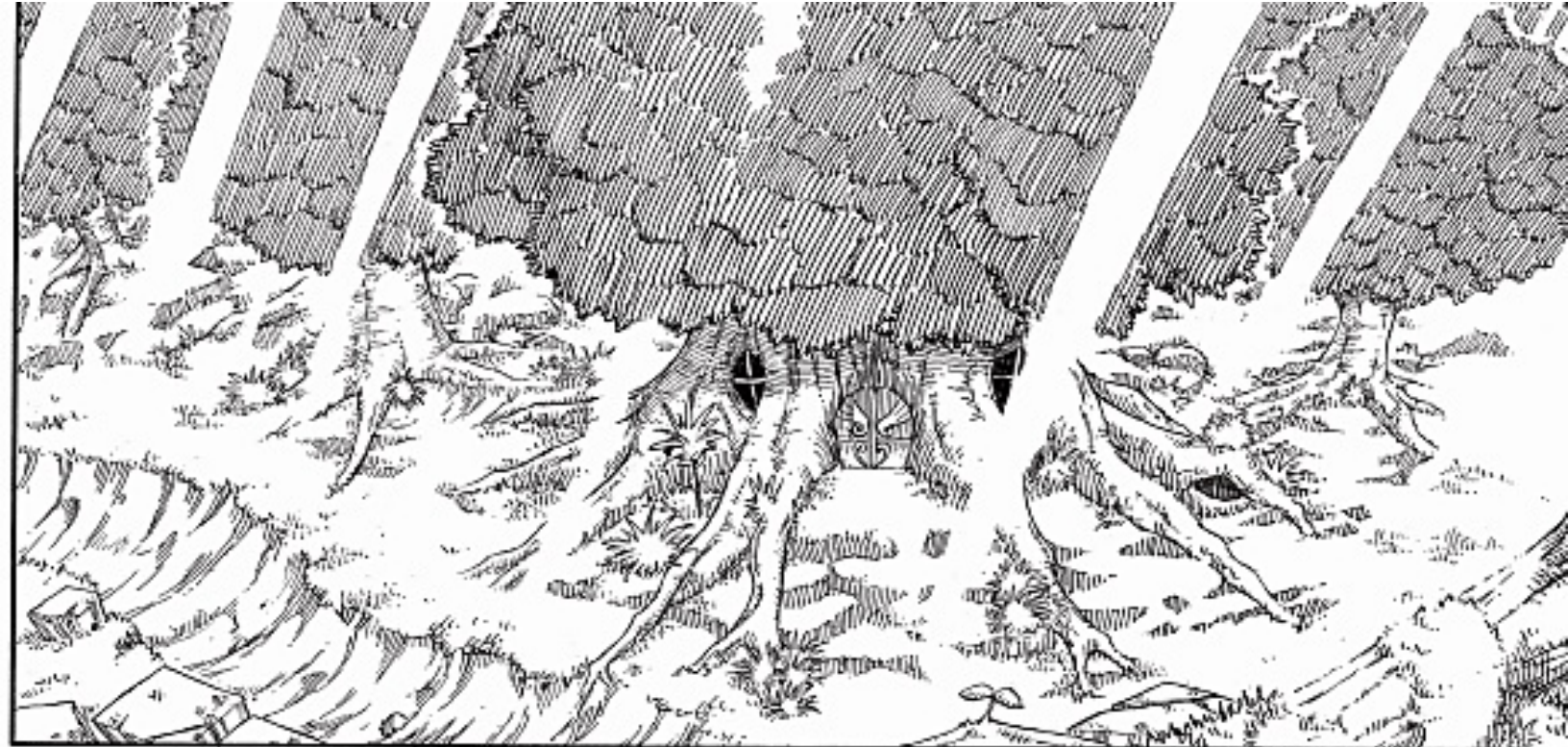


**Go,
Natsu
!!!!**

**You can
do it!!!!
You can
surpass
even my
power
!!!!!!**







FAIRY TAIL

Chapter 60: Wings of Fire



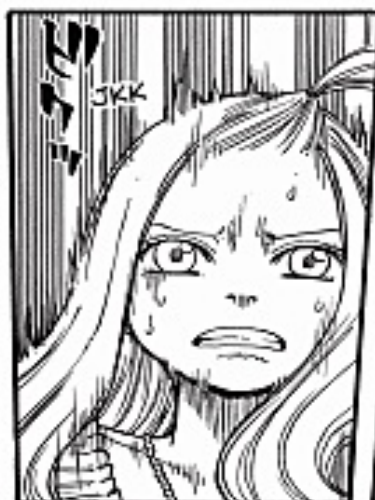
FAIRY TAIL	
Name: Vijeeter Ecor	Age: 16 yrs.
Magic: Dance	
Likes: Dance	Dislikes: Fermented soybeans



Remarks

By dancing particular dances, he can do things such as boost the fighting power of all of his friends within a ten-meter radius or, similarly, reduce the fighting power of enemies with his dance magic. He's always loved dance, and can regularly be seen dancing within the guild. His plan for the future seems to be to save up his cash and go study at Minstrel, the cultural capital of dance. But he never can seem to save any money. As a side note, he has a hundred suits that all look alike.

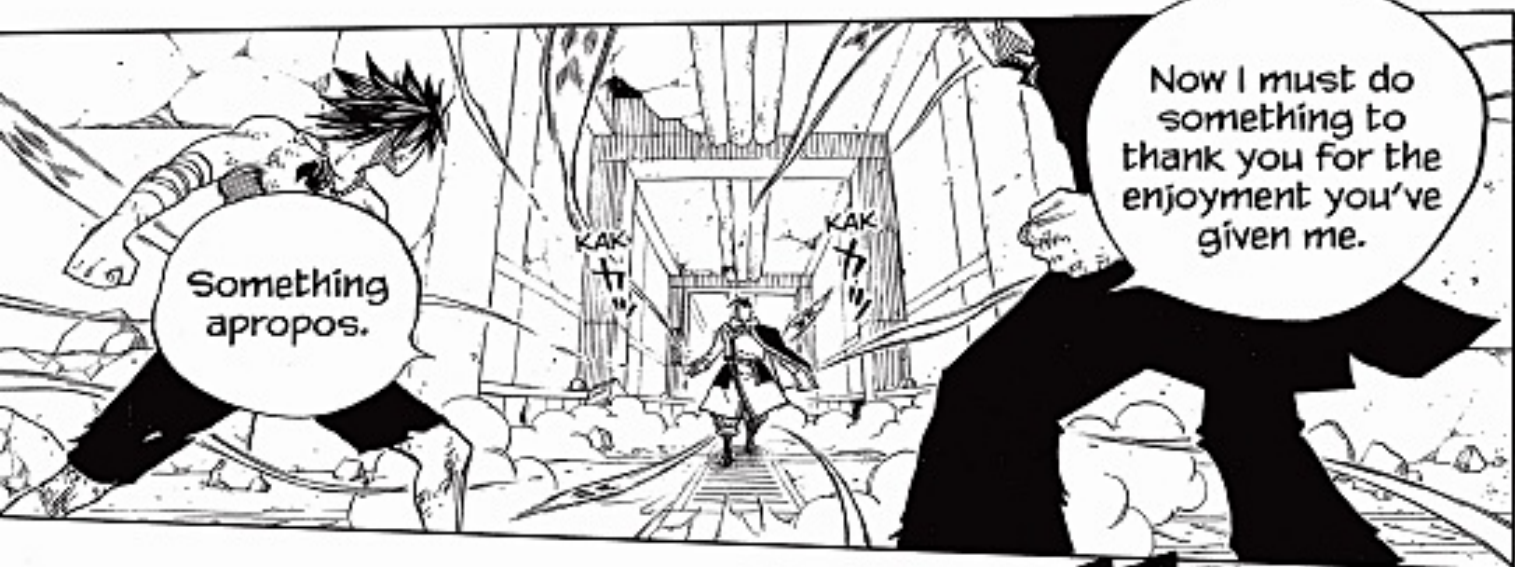
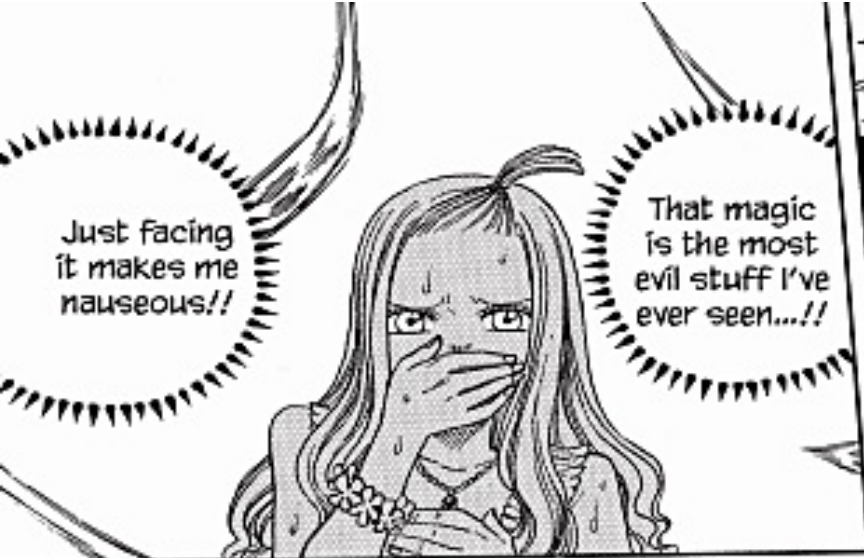


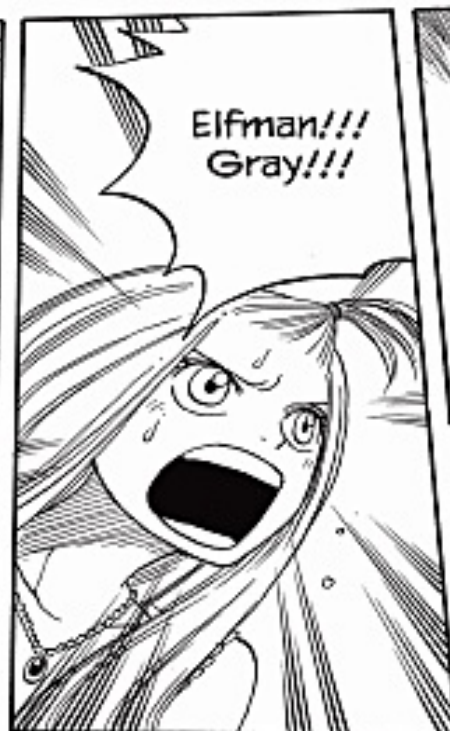


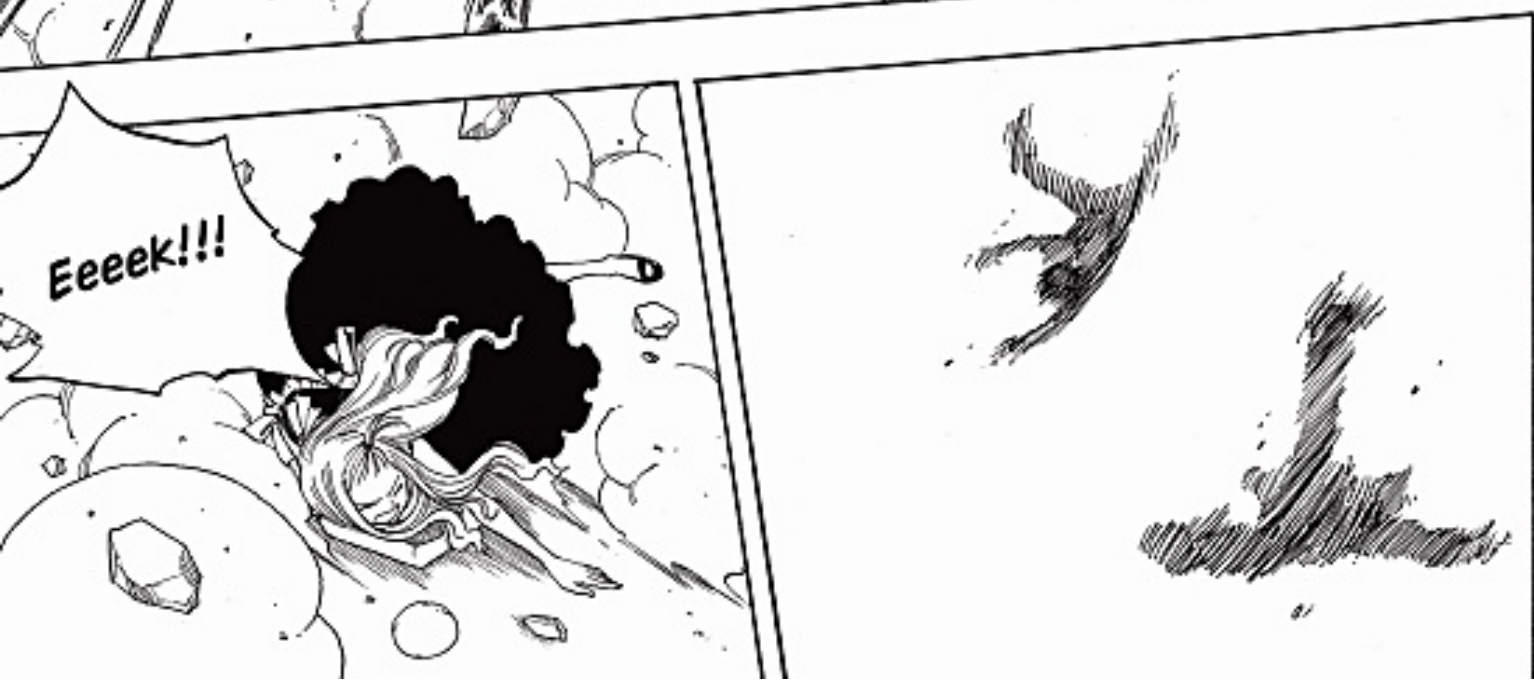


Honestly,
I never thought
you would give
me this much
fun!!

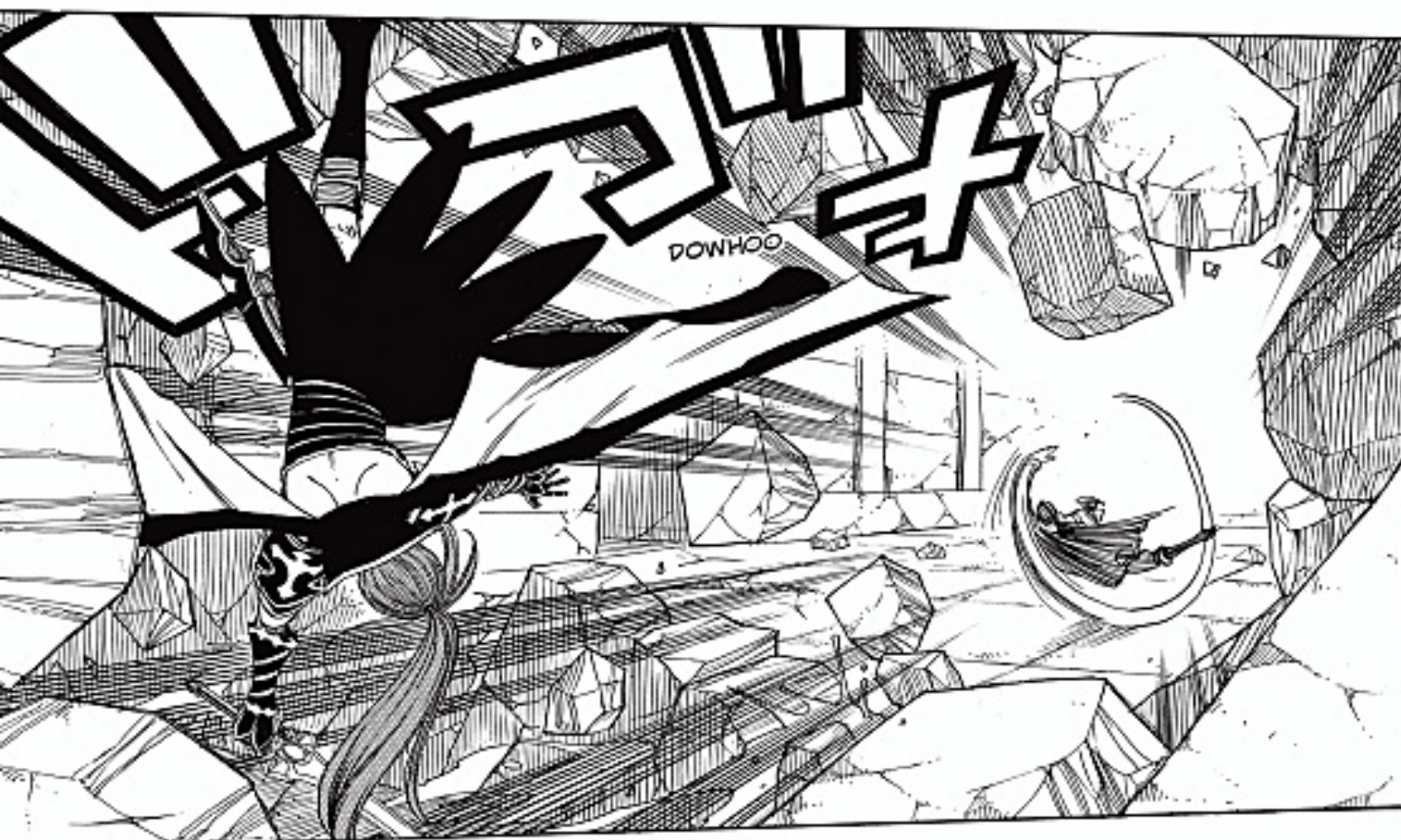
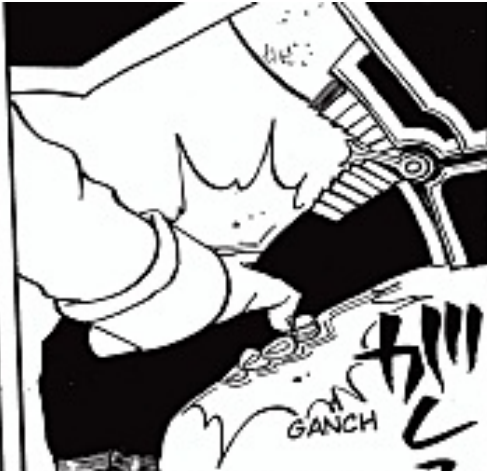
***Master
Jose!!!!***

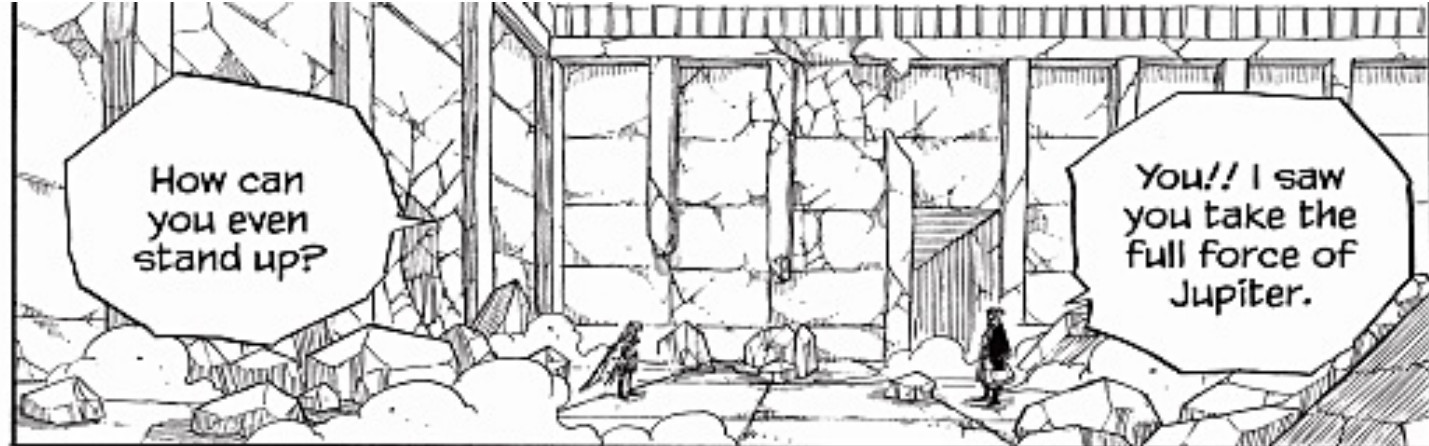


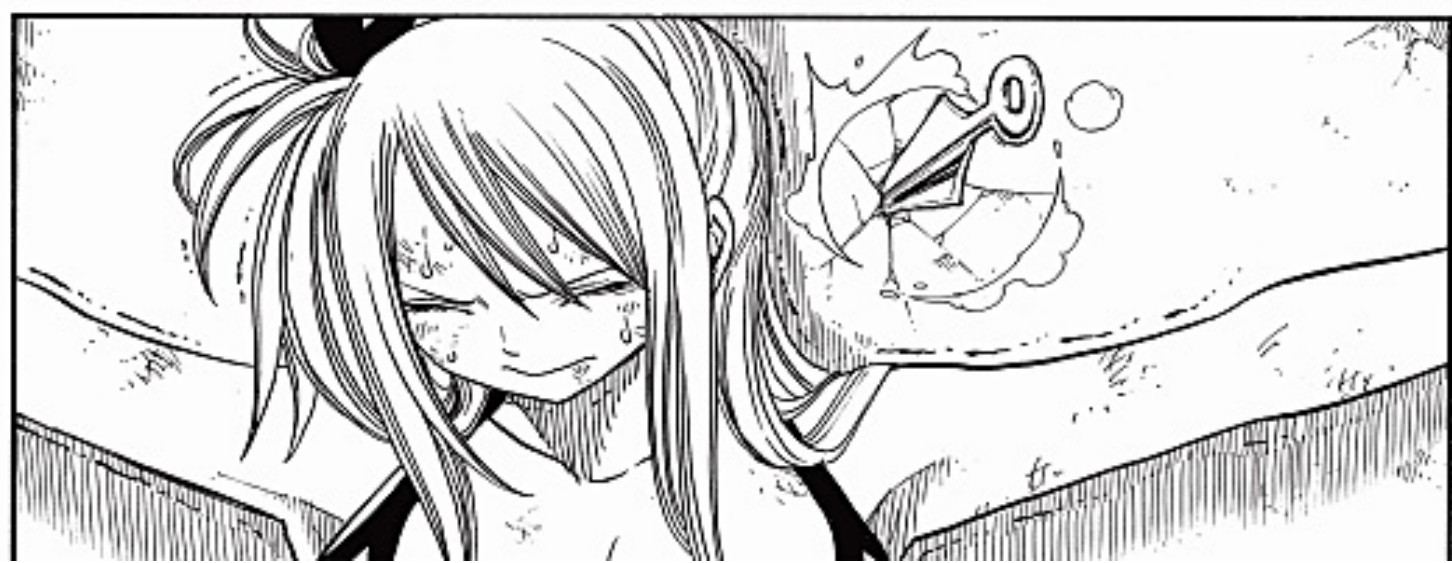
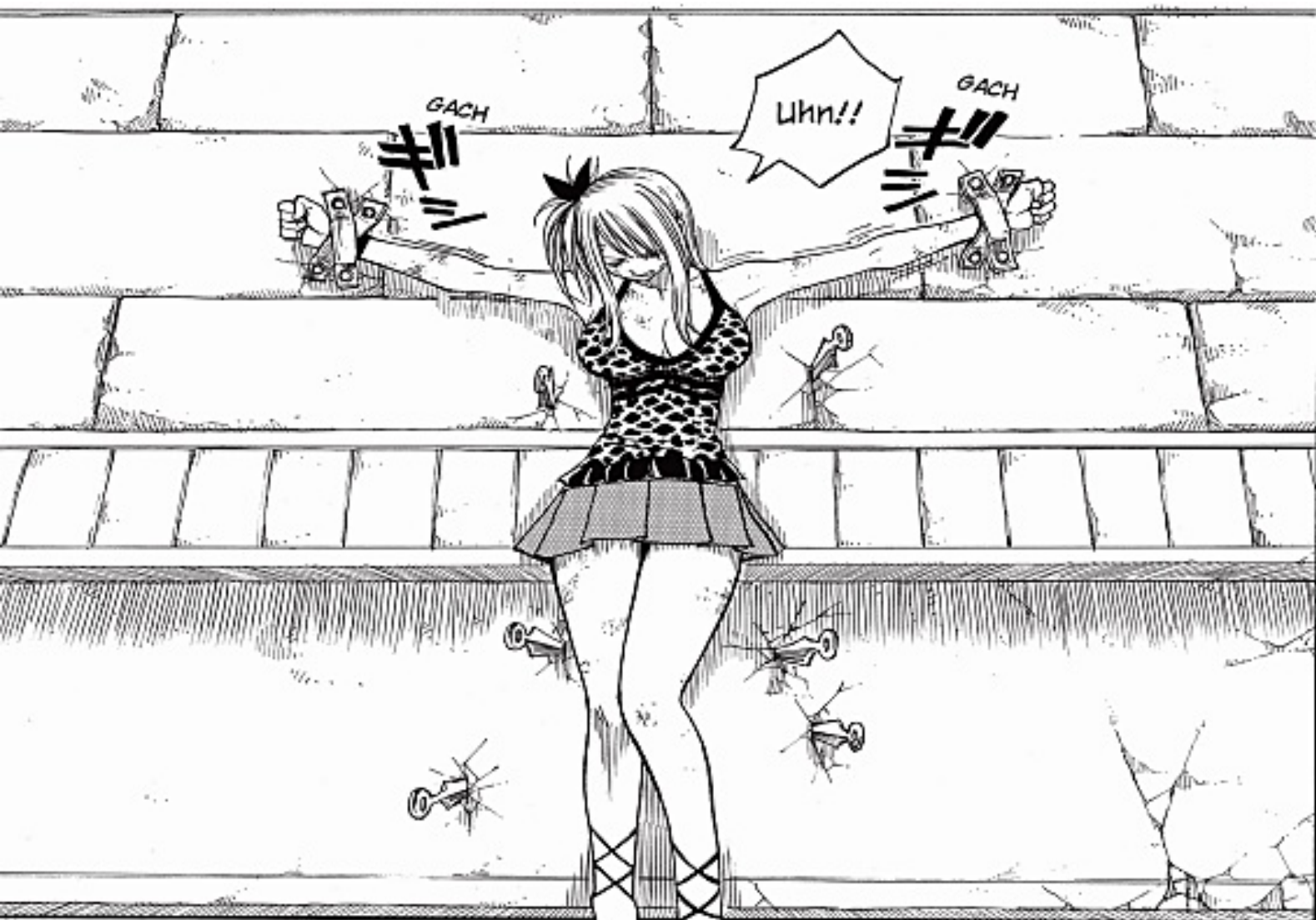












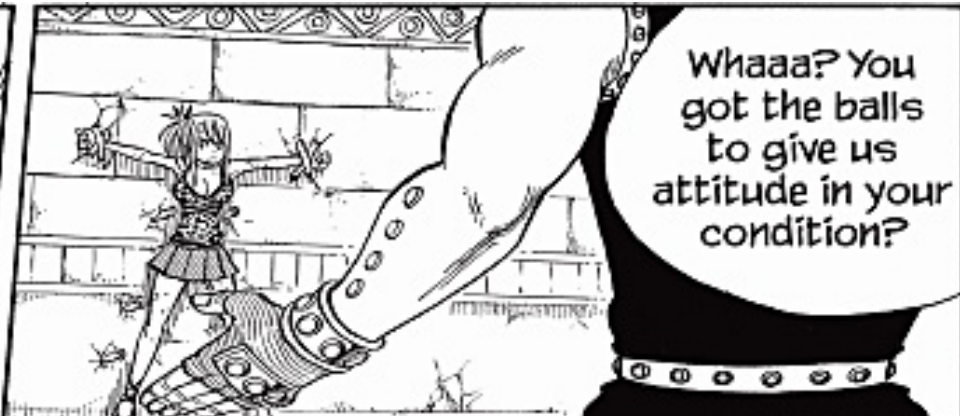


Gya
ha ha
ha!!!

That was so
close! I really
thought that
I was going
to hit her that
time!









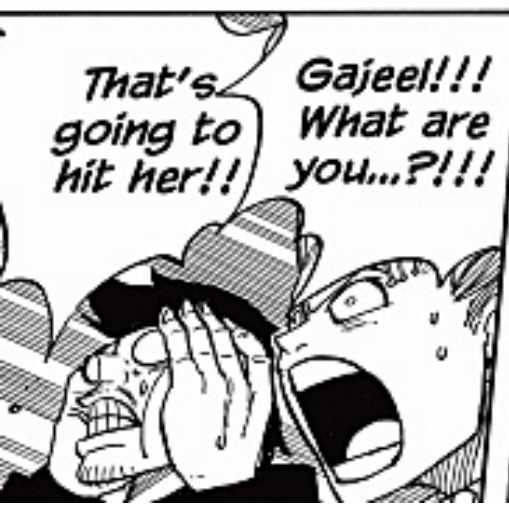
*For the
rest of
your
short
lives!!!*

*You will spend
each day
trembling in
the shadow
of the
world's most
frightening
guild.*



*You want
to test
that
theory?!*

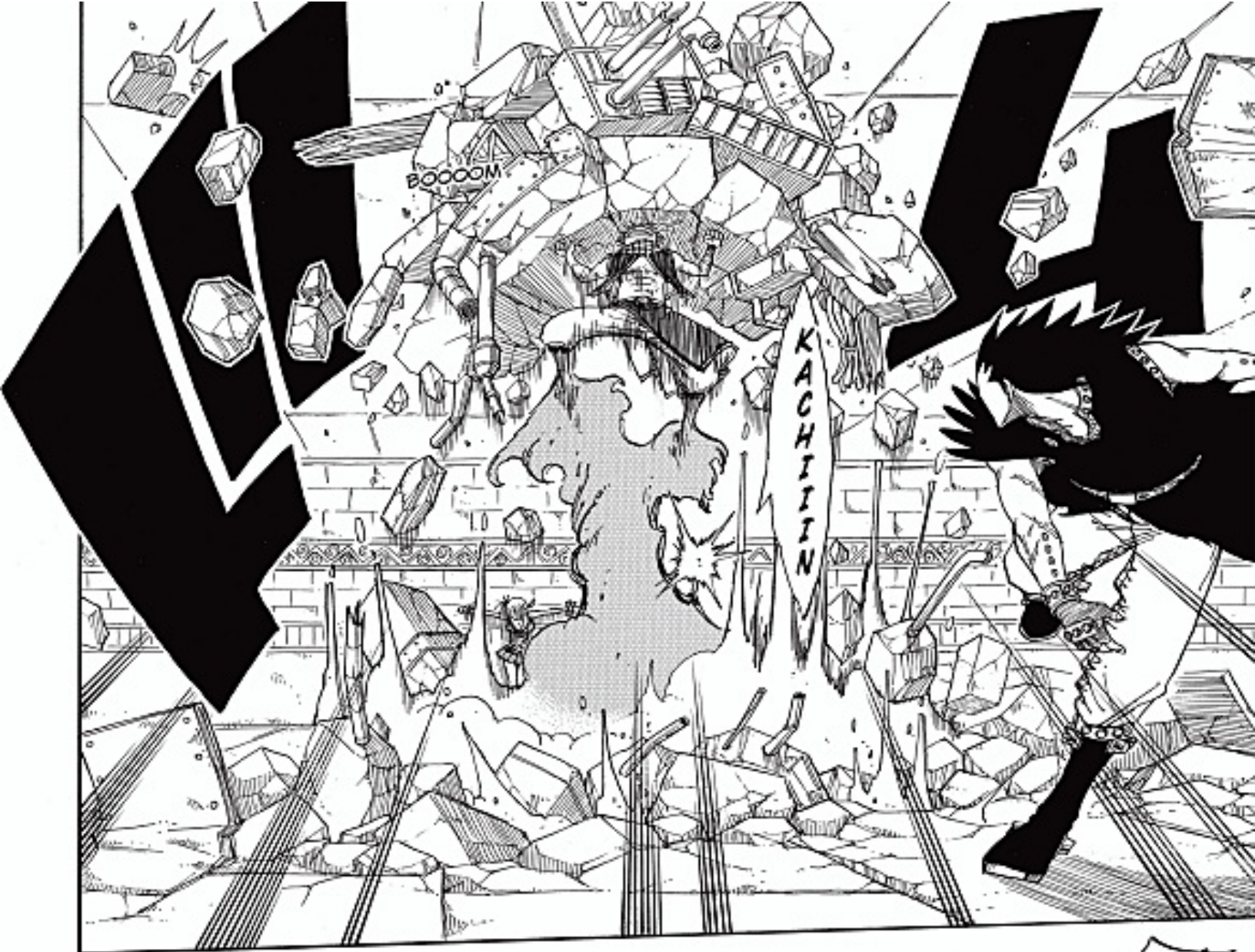
*Now that
sounds
like fun!!*



*That's
going to
hit her!!*

*Gajeel!!!
What are
you...?!!!*





Gaaa-aaahh!!!!

DOGAM GAM GAM GAM

Gaaa-aaahh !!!

DOGAM GAM GAM GAM

TH! TH! TH! TH! TH! TH!

I could smell you!!

I knew you were there.

I could smell you!!

I knew you were there.

DM

HUUUUH ?!!

OWW !!!

DM

DM

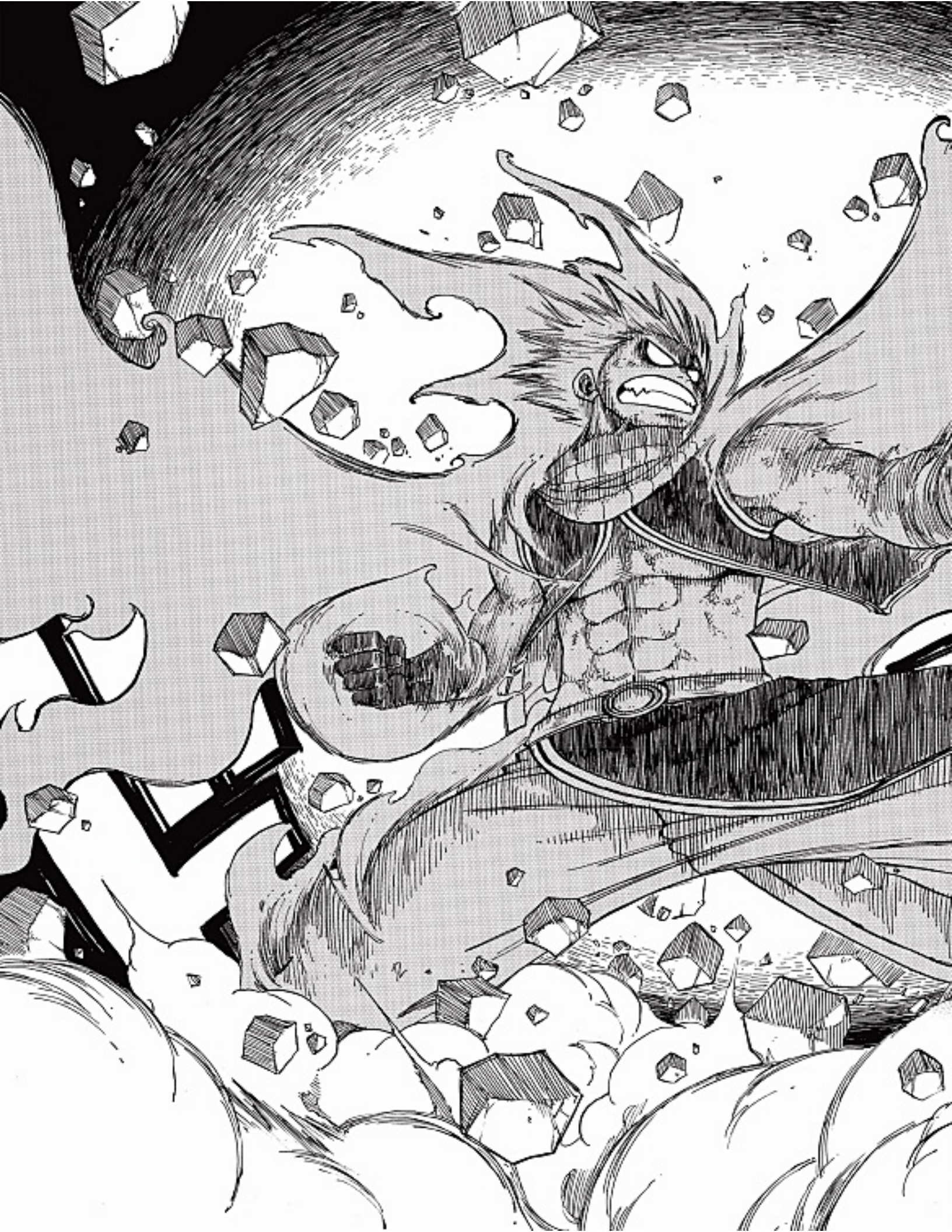
DM

HUUUUH ?!!

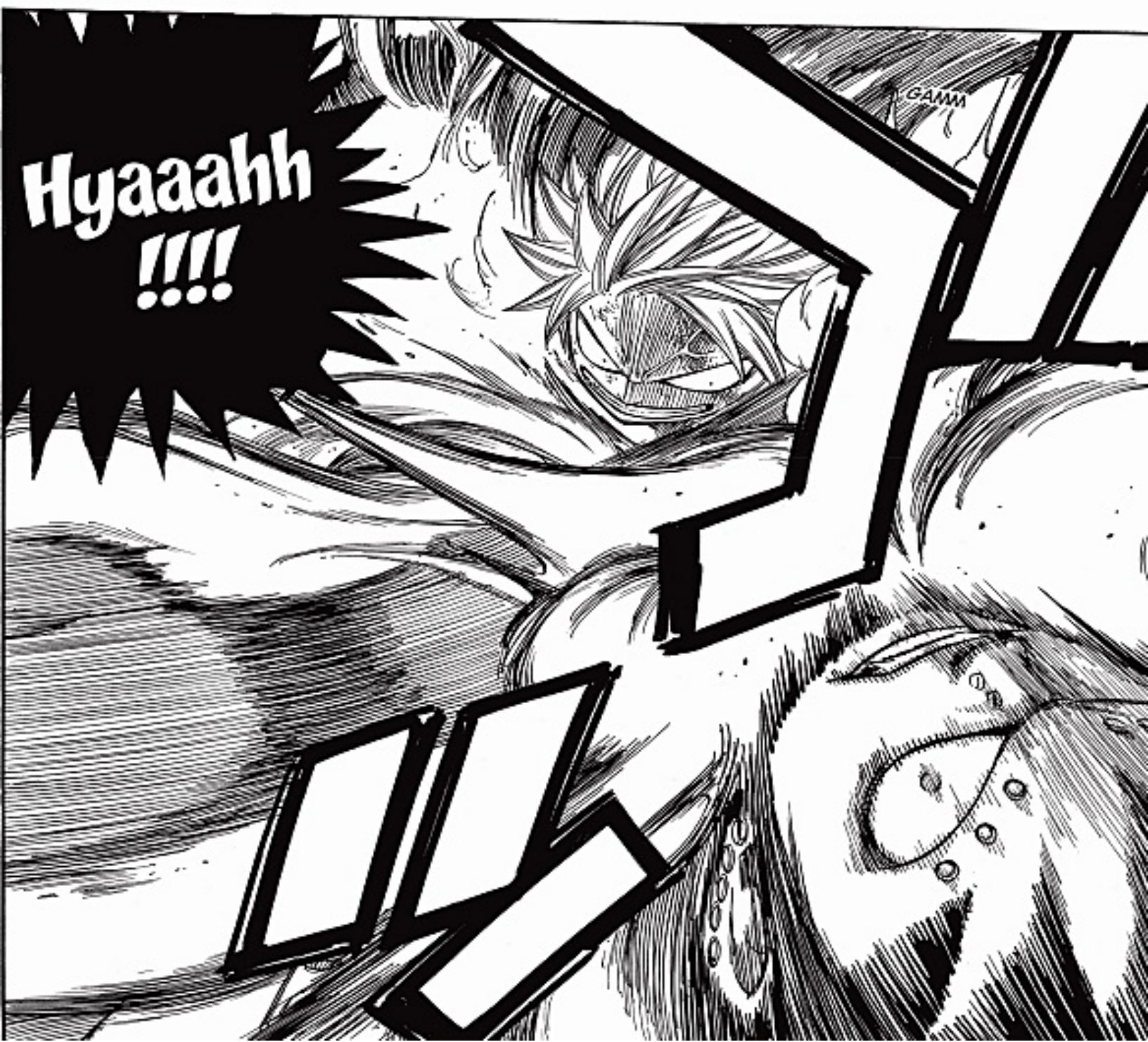
OWW !!!

DM

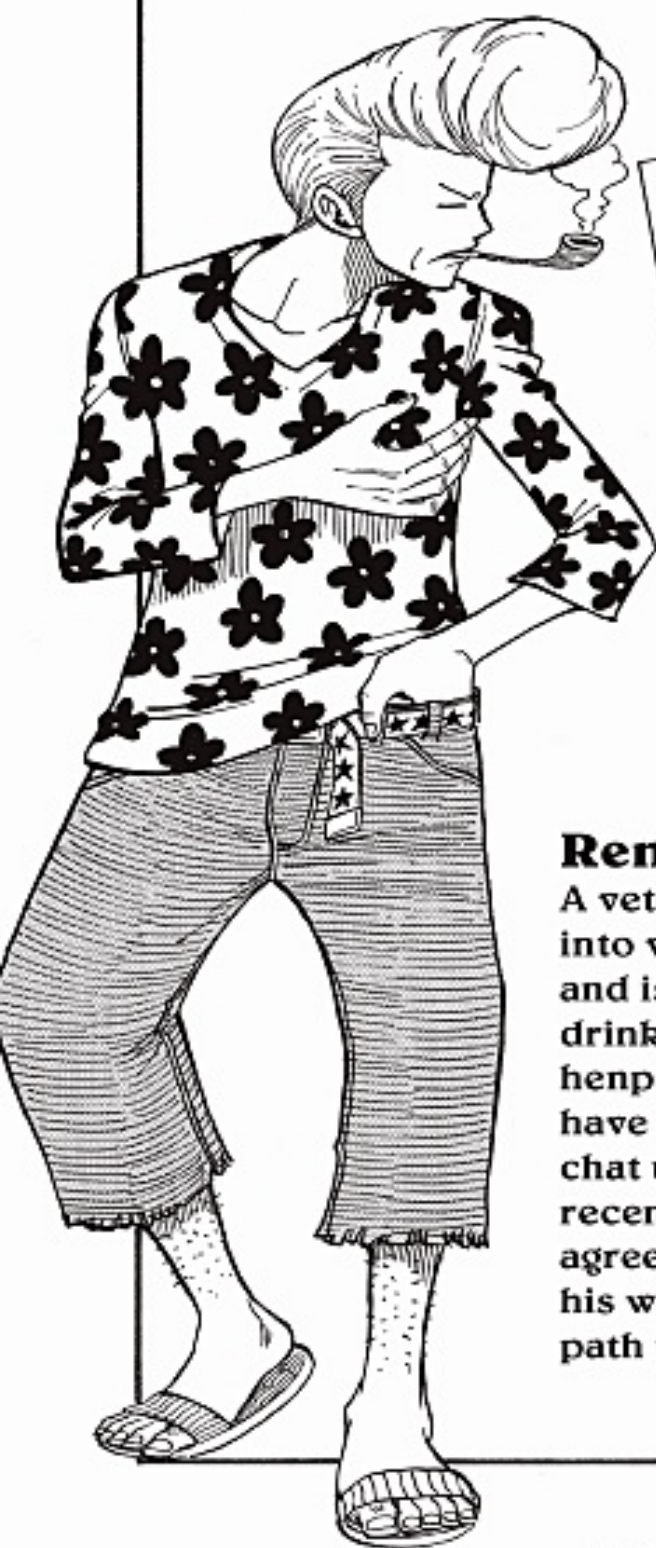
DM







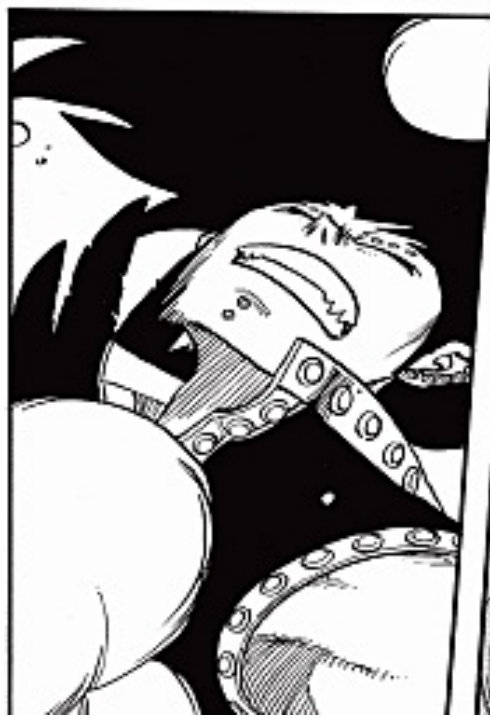
FAIRY TAIL



Remarks

A veteran wizard who can fight by shaping smoke into various forms. He has much the same history and is the same age as Macao, so at times they are drinking buddies, and at other times, rivals. He is henpecked by his wife, so even when he doesn't have work, you can find him at the guild trying to chat up the pretty young guild employees. His most recent target was Mirajane, saying that if she would agree to go out with him, he would break it off with his wife. She turned him down flat. He's well on the path to mastering the art of being a creepy old guy.

Chapter 61: The Two Dragon Slayers







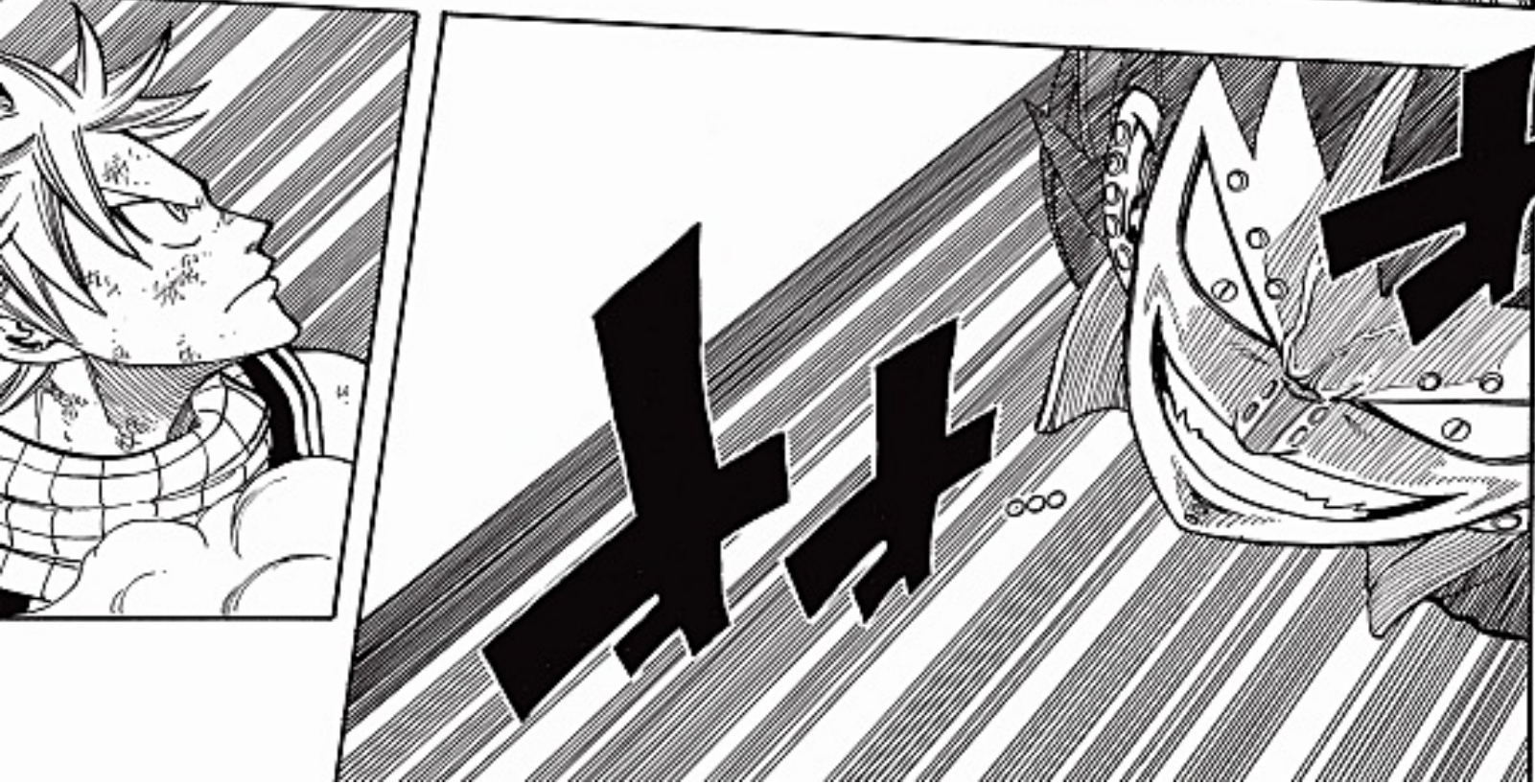
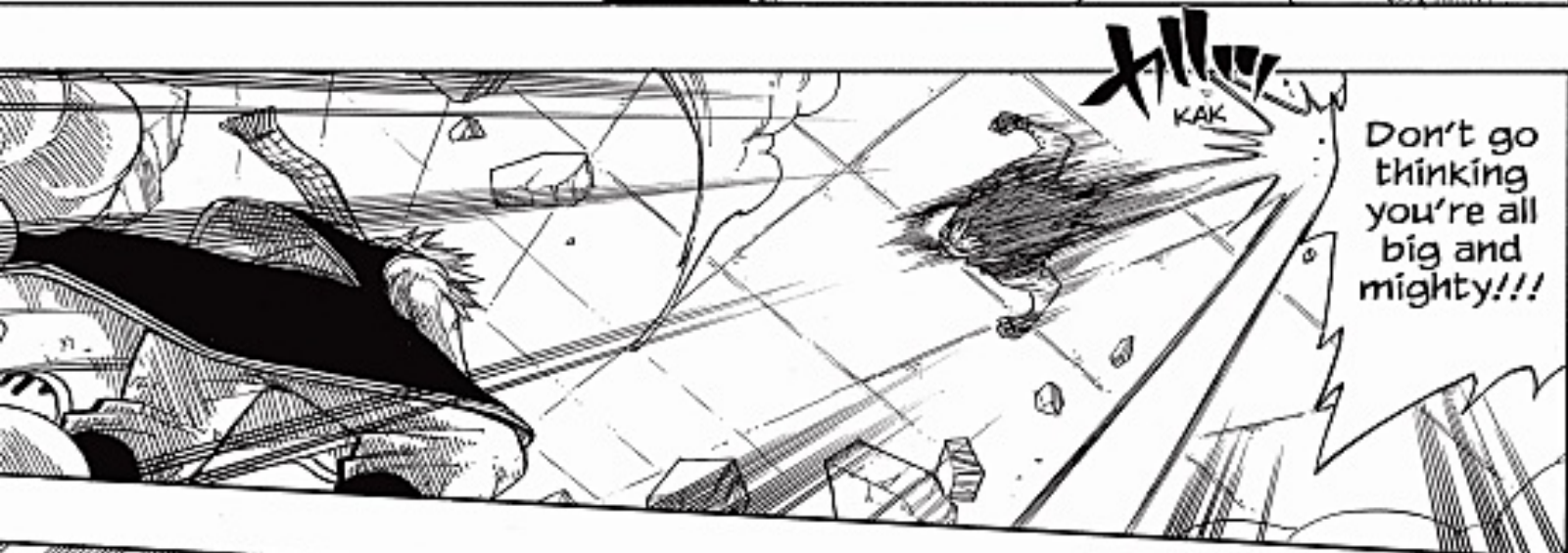
I've never
seen Natsu
like that
before...



Neither
have I!

GRN
GRN
GRN







Tetsuryû-
Kon!!!!*

*Iron Dragon Club!!!!



Hey!!!





Karyû-no-
Kagizume
!!!!*

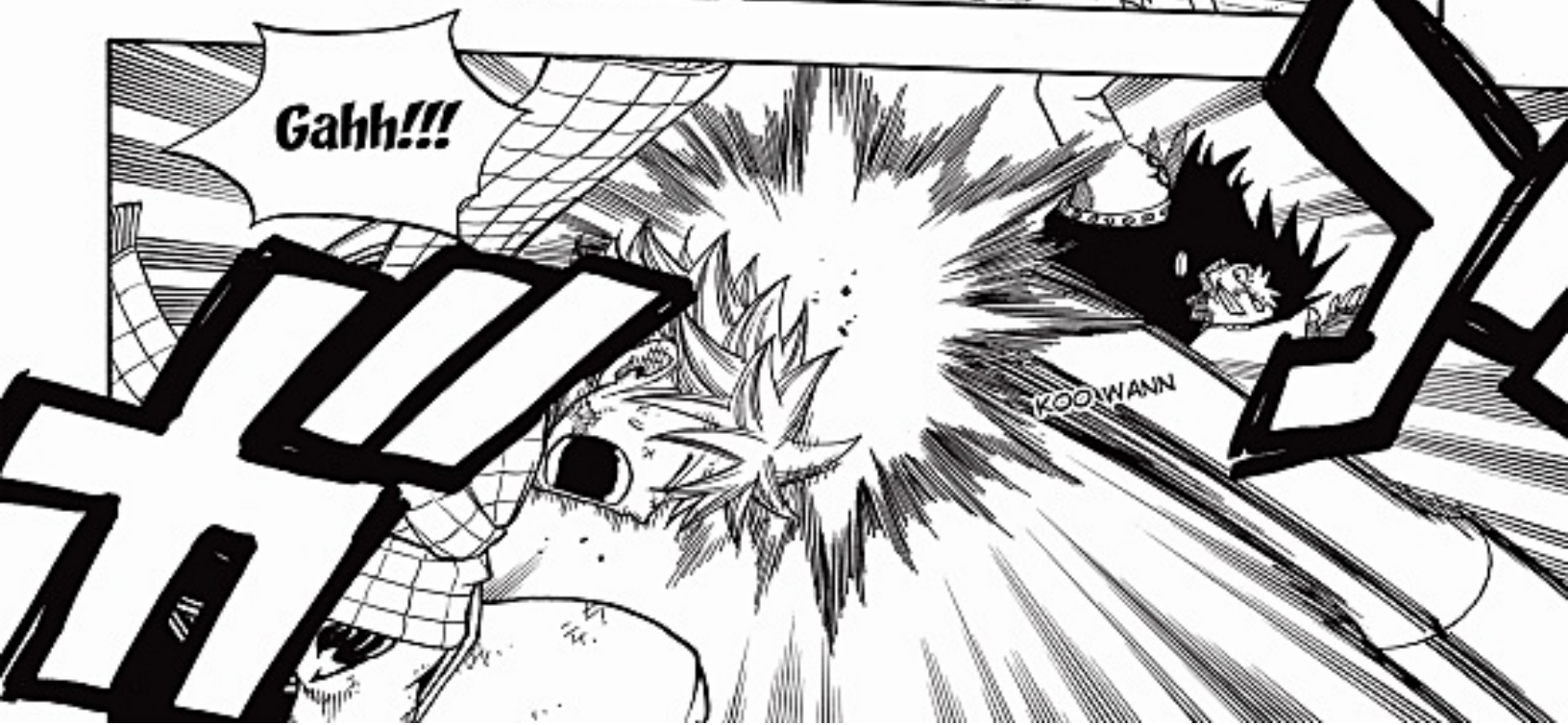
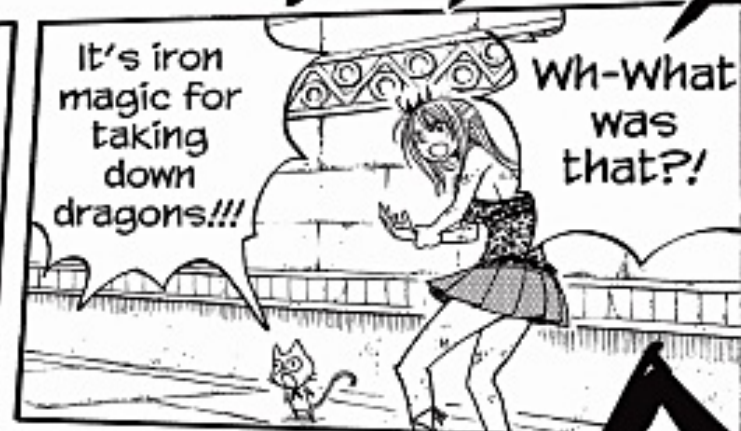
GWO KAKK

Grkk!!

*Fire Dragon's Talon!!!!



*Iron Dragon Sword!!!!





So this means
that two guys with
magic enough
to kill dragons
are fighting each
other?!



Both of them are
dragon slayers!!
They both can make
their bodies take on
dragon powers!!



What is going
to happen to
them?!



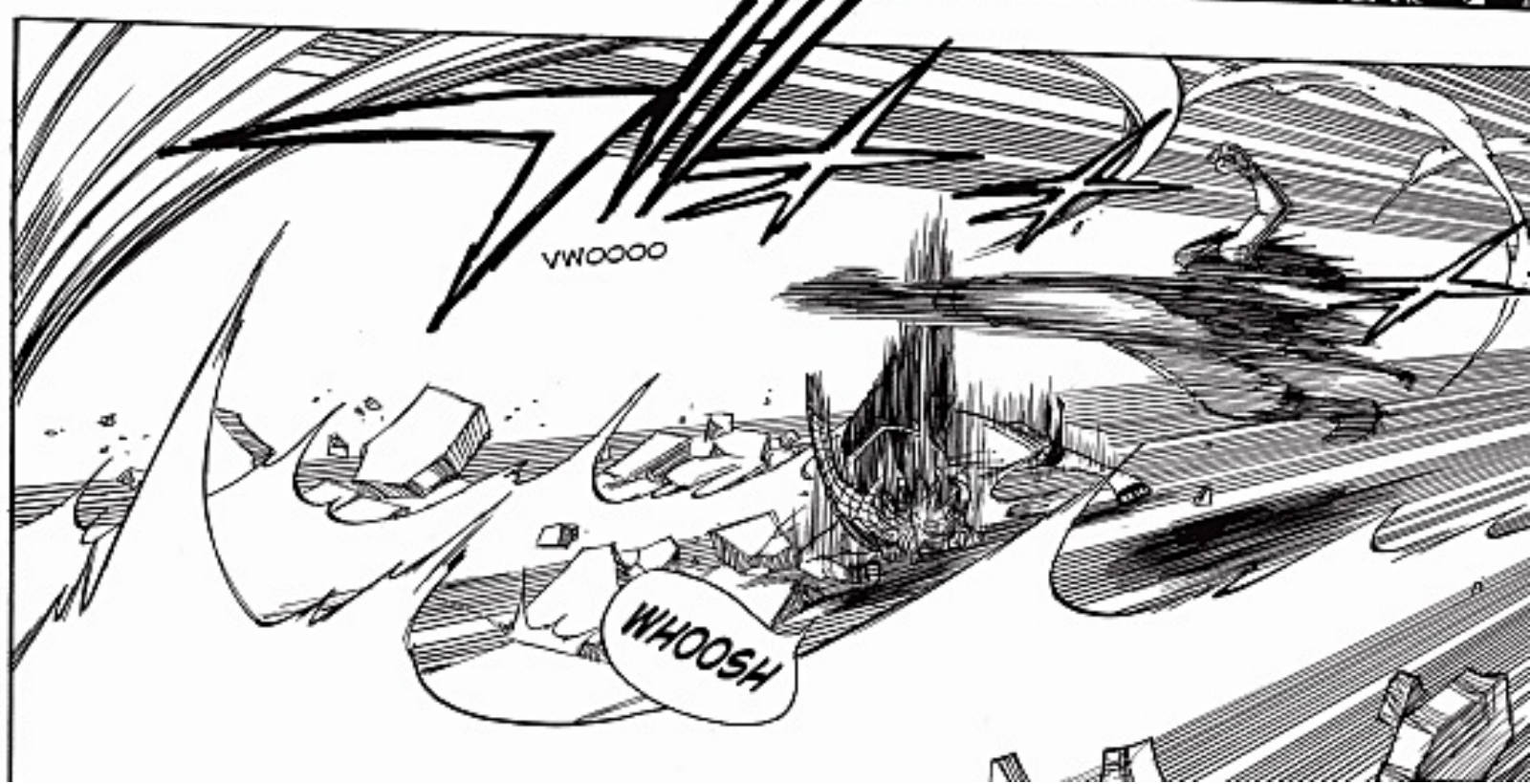
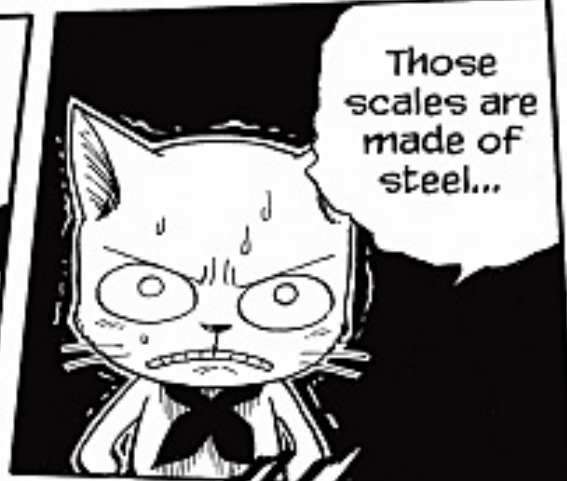
W—Wait a
second...

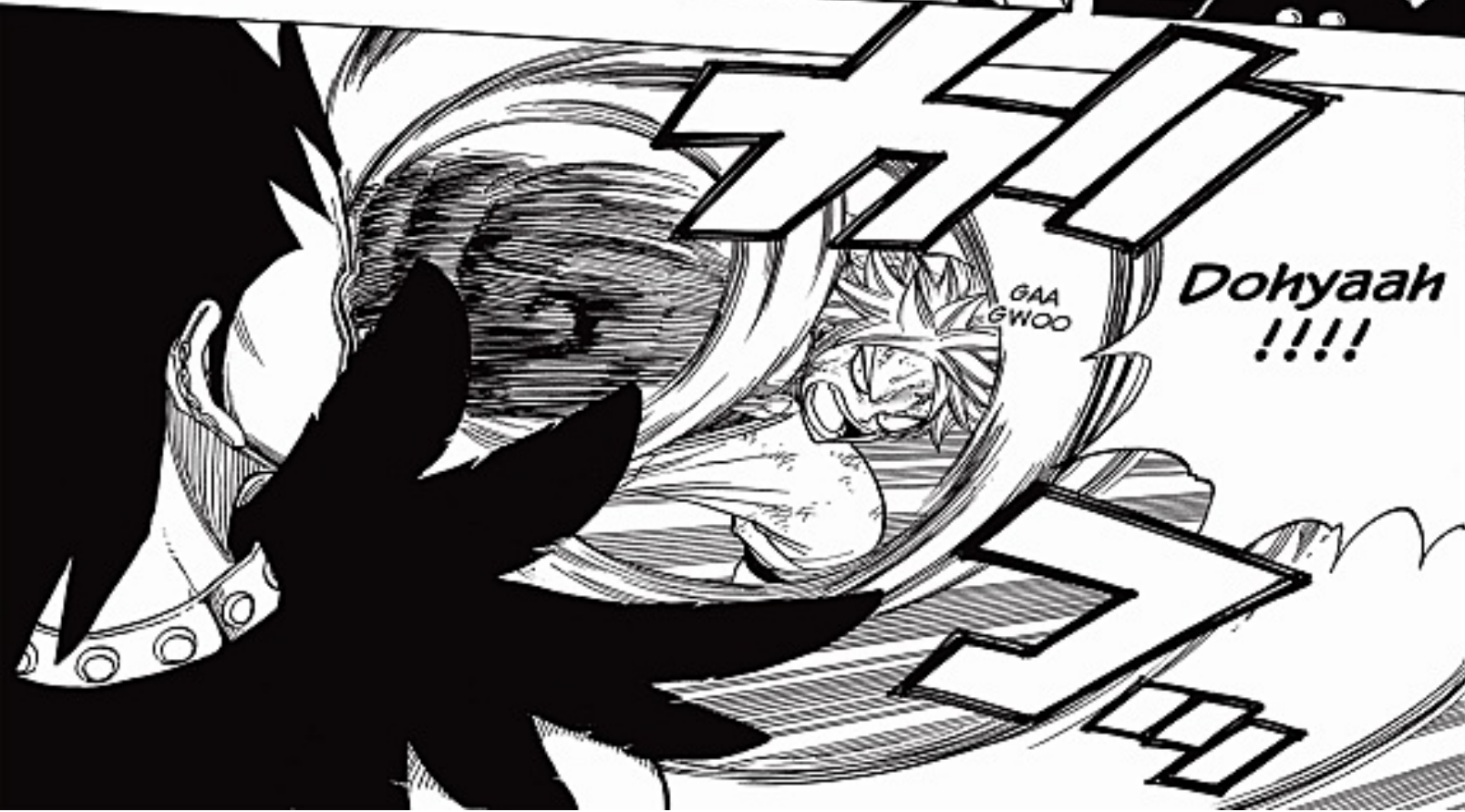
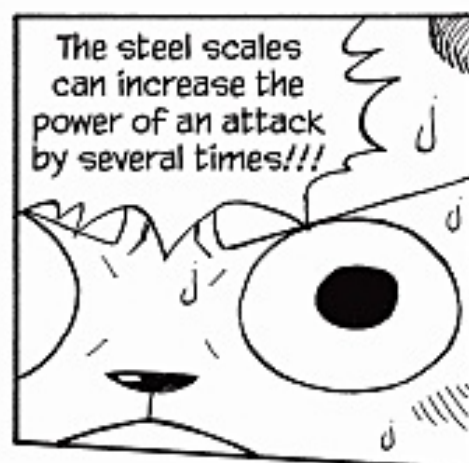


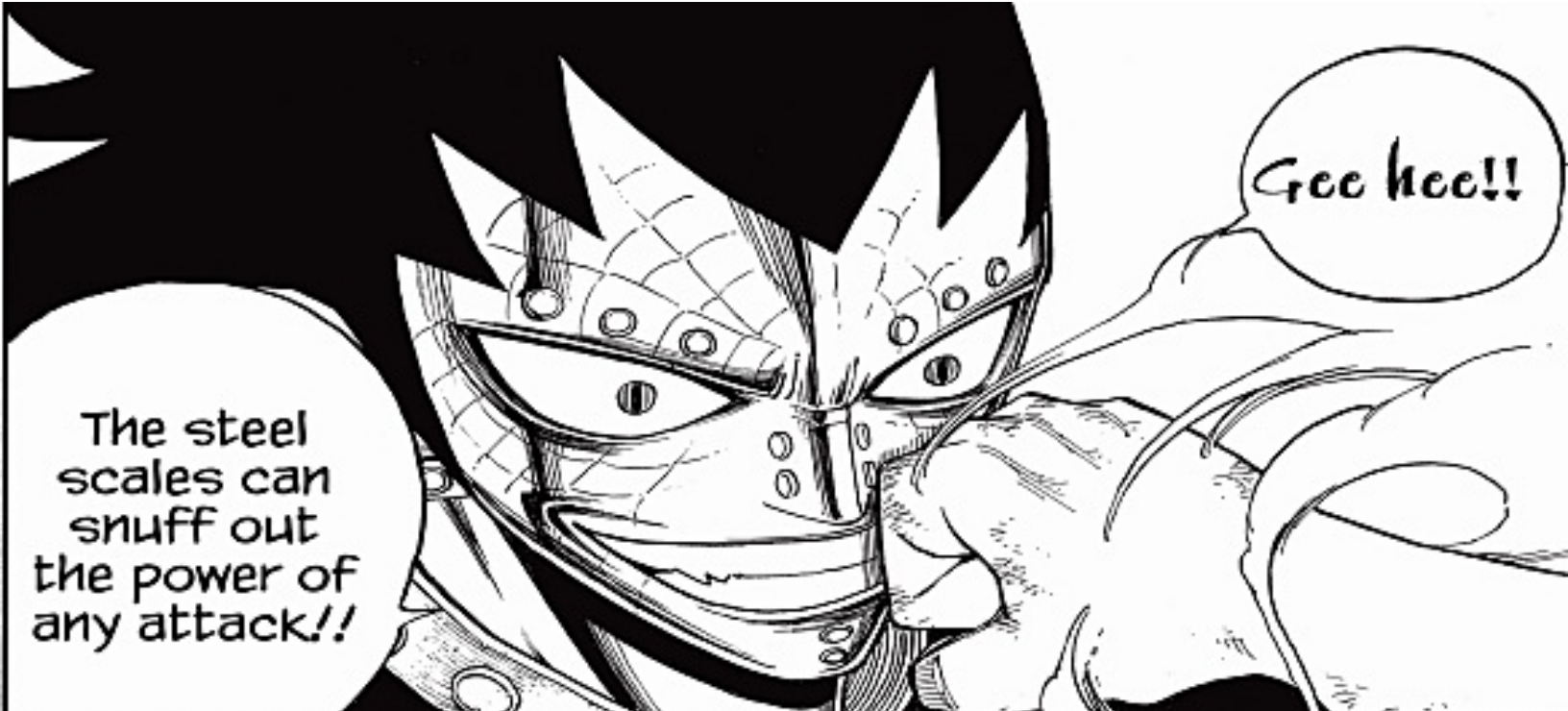


Gaaaahh
!!!!

KRAK







The steel
scales can
snuff out
the power of
any attack!!

Gee hee!!

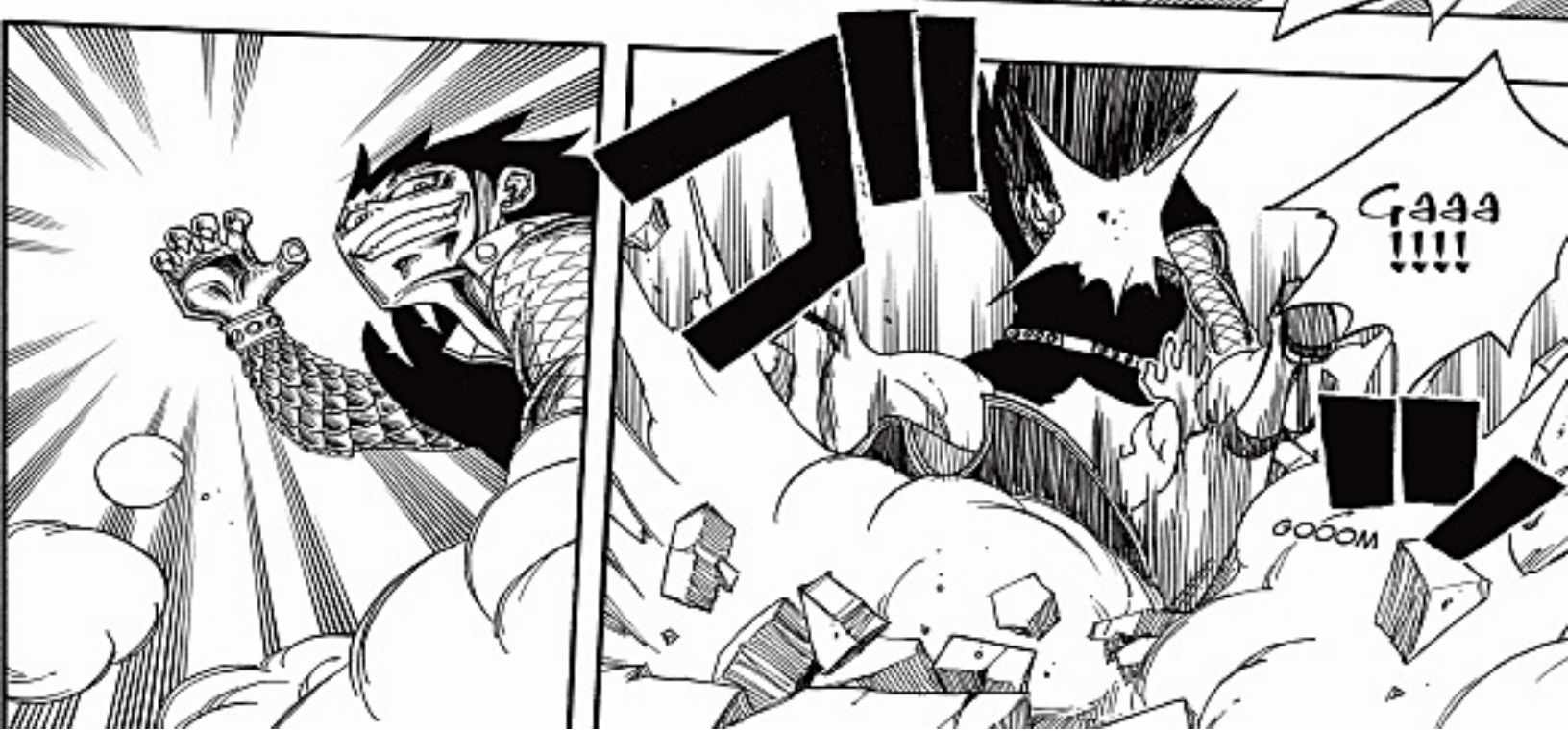


No!!!

You
mean it
increases
his
defense,
too?!!

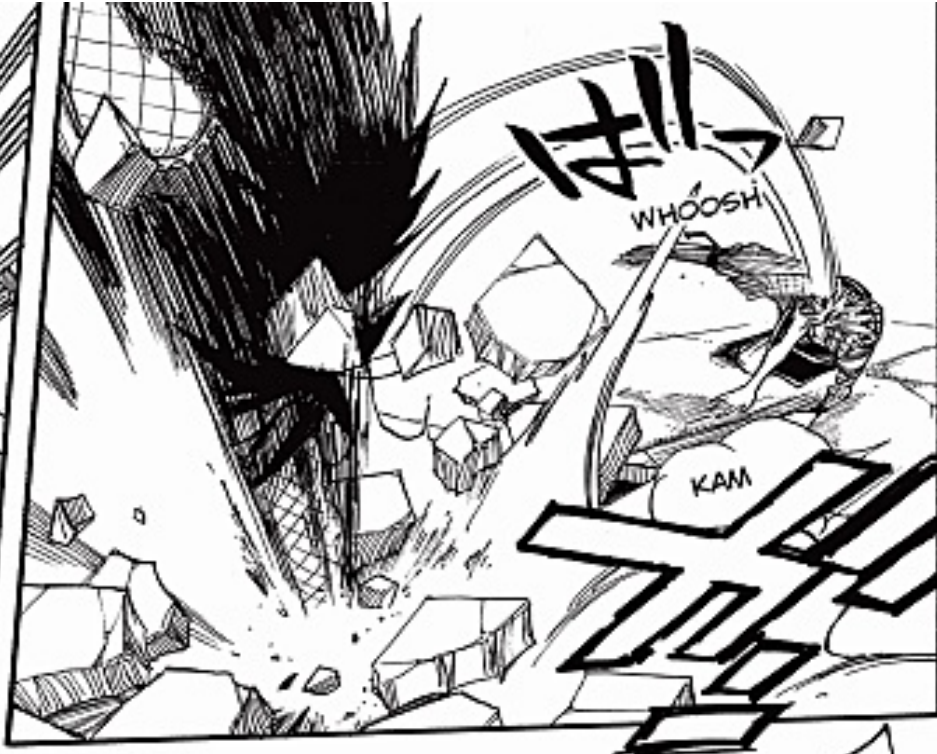


U
w
a
a
a
h
h
!!!!

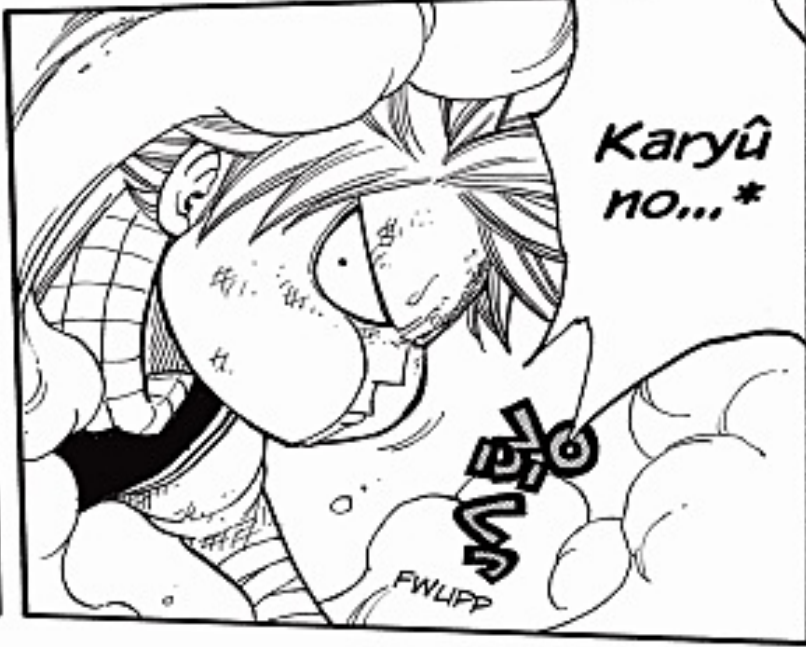


Gaaa
!!!!

GOOOOM



*Iron Dragon...



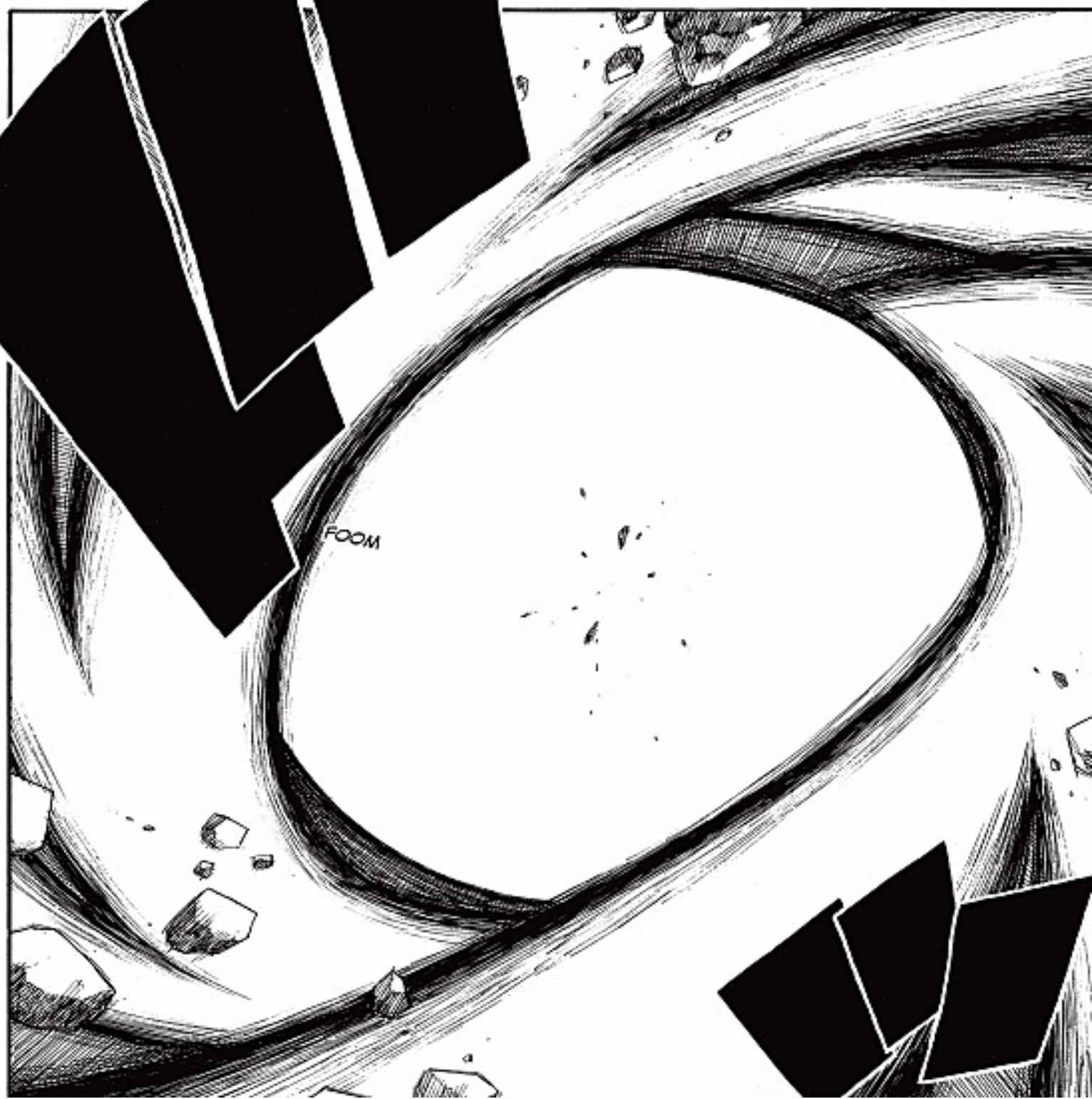
*Fire Dragon's...



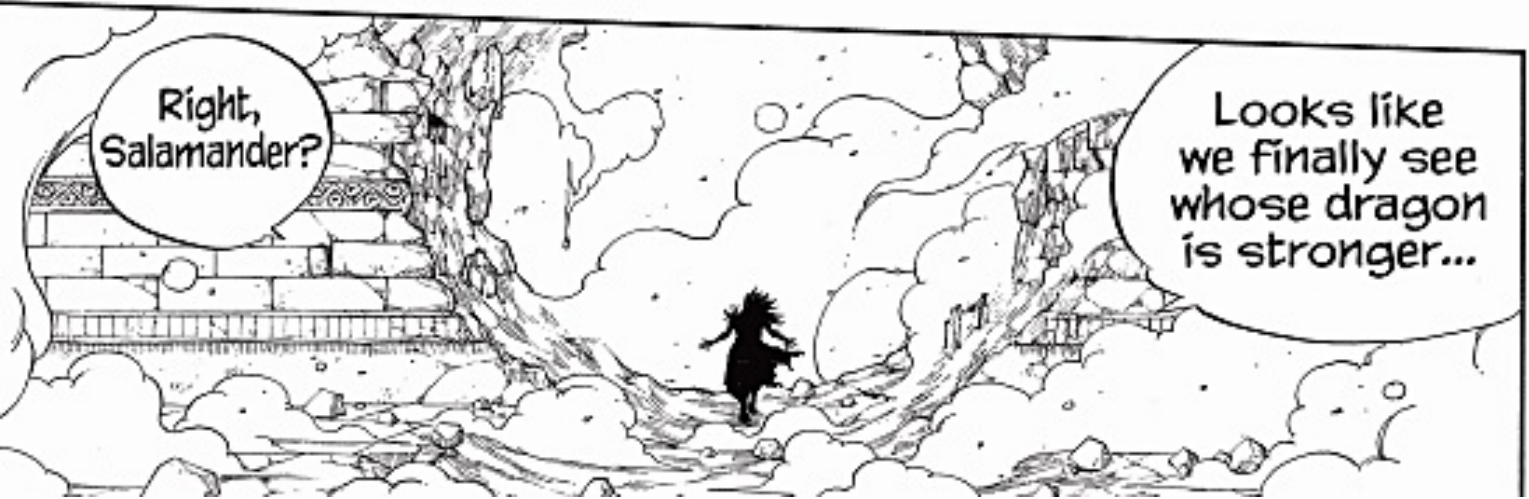
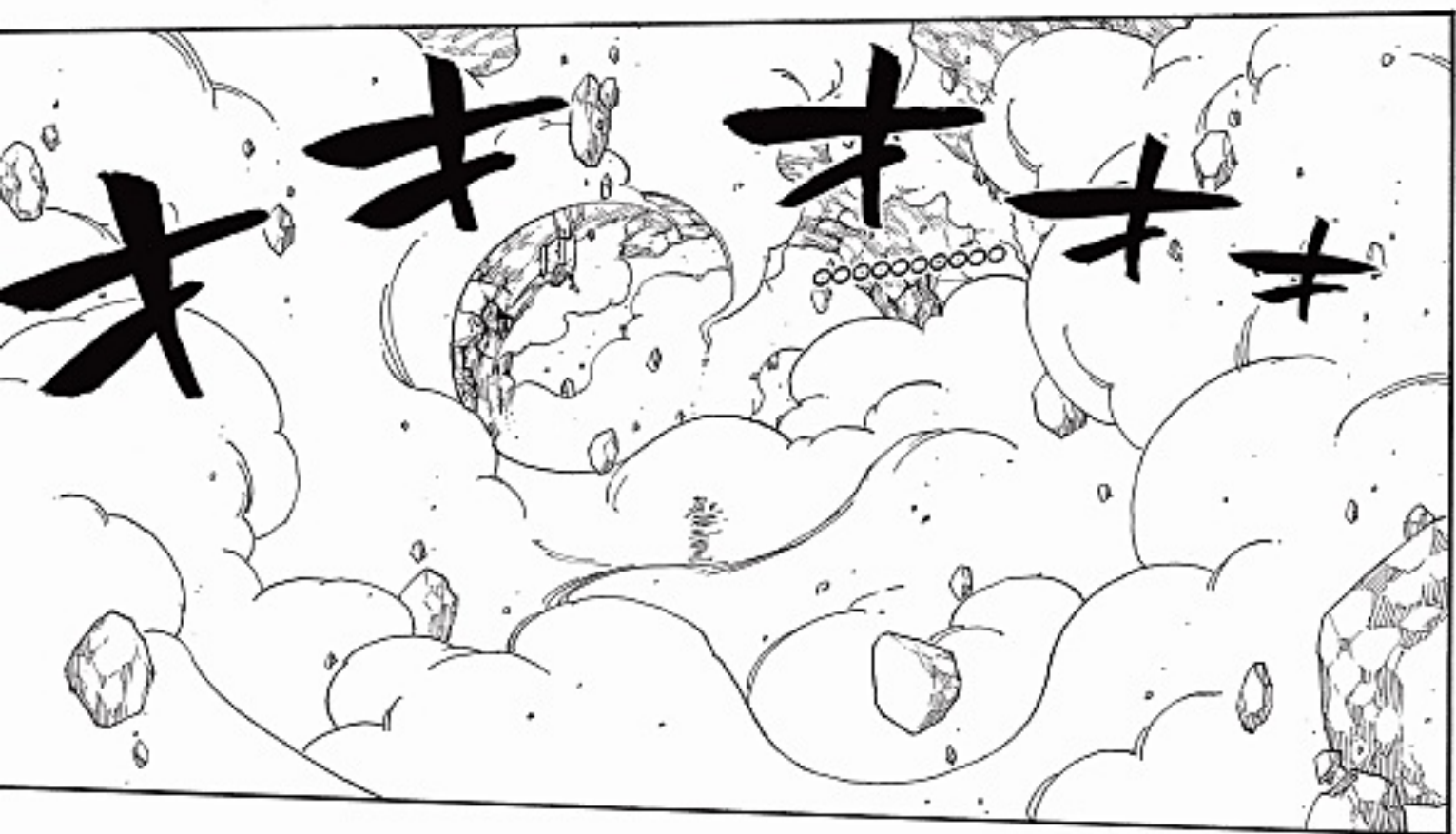


Hôkô!!!!*

***Roar!!!!**



FOOM





...but
nothing will
put a crack
in my steel
armor!!

I could be
bathed in the
flames of your
fire-dragon's
breath for as
long as you
like...



Gh...

Um...

On the other
hand, your body
is cut to pieces
by the iron
blades of my
breath!!

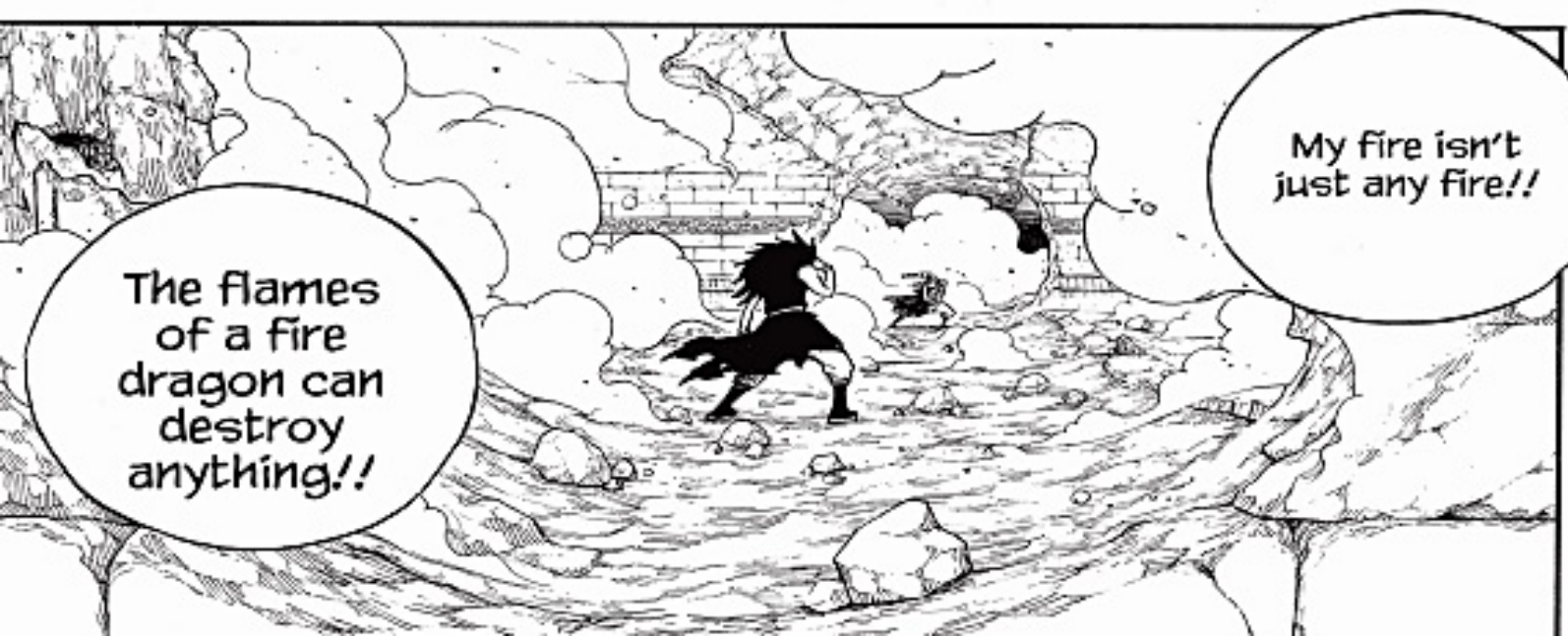


Huh?



Natsu...

He's...
really
strong...





The time
for testing
each other
is over!
Let's
fight!!!

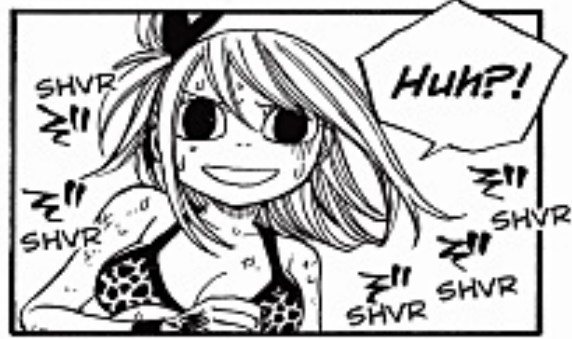
If you don't
come at me
with everything
you've got, you'll
be shattered to
pieces, Gajeel
Kurogane!!!



These
guys are
monsters
!!!

You mean they
haven't gone
full-out yet?!!

They were
just *testing*
each other,
he says?!



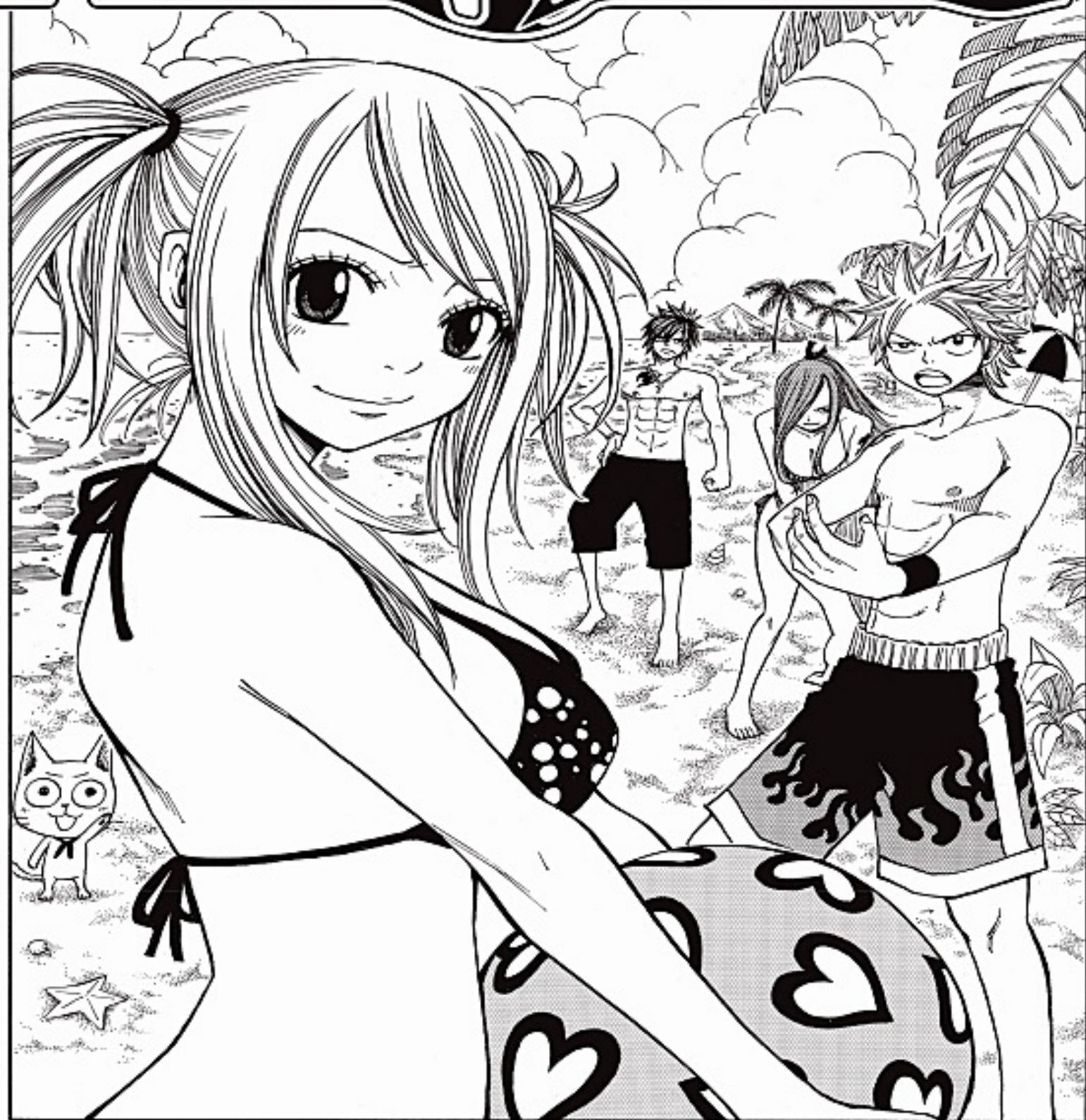
Huh?!



I'm going
to make
you fall...
Salamander!!!

The sky isn't
big enough for
two dragons!!

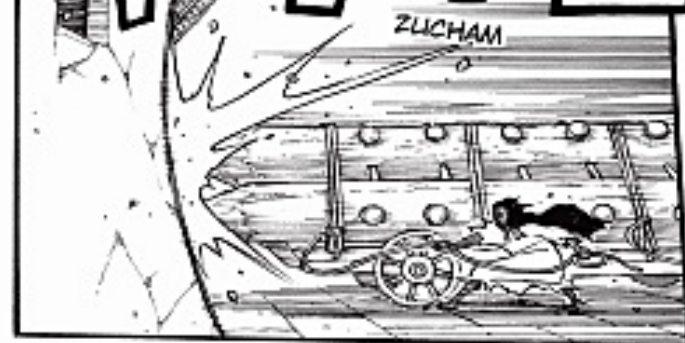
FAIRY FAN

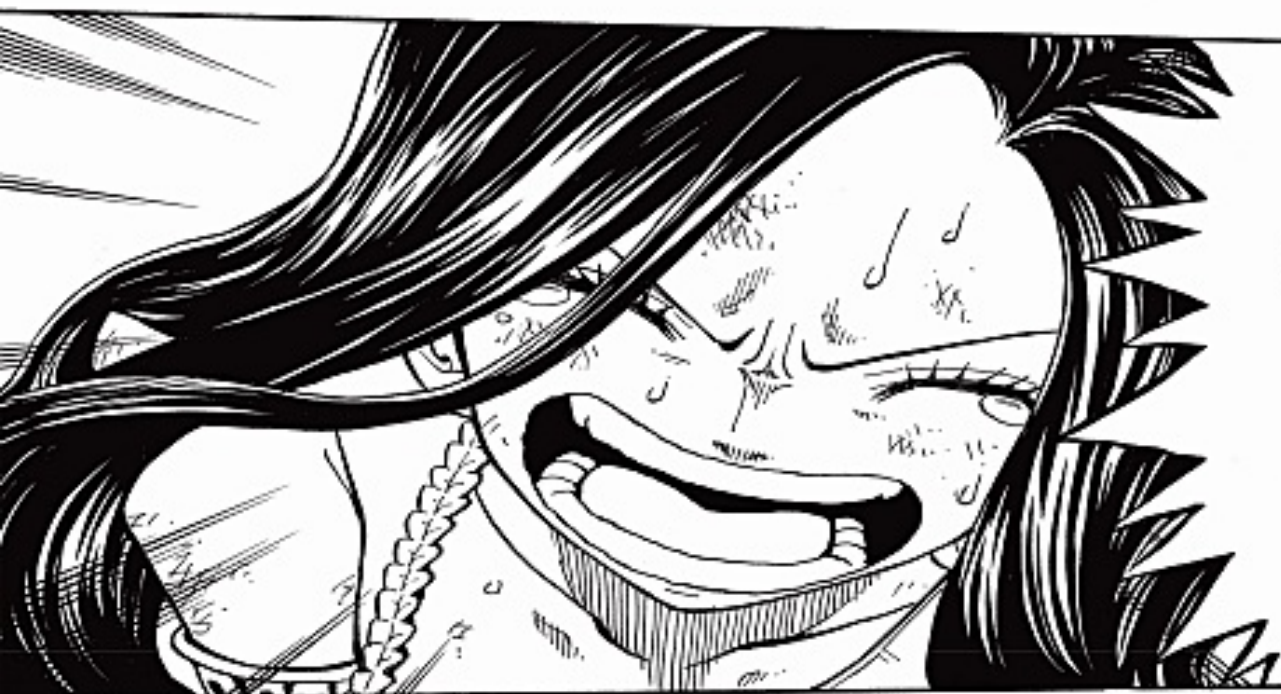
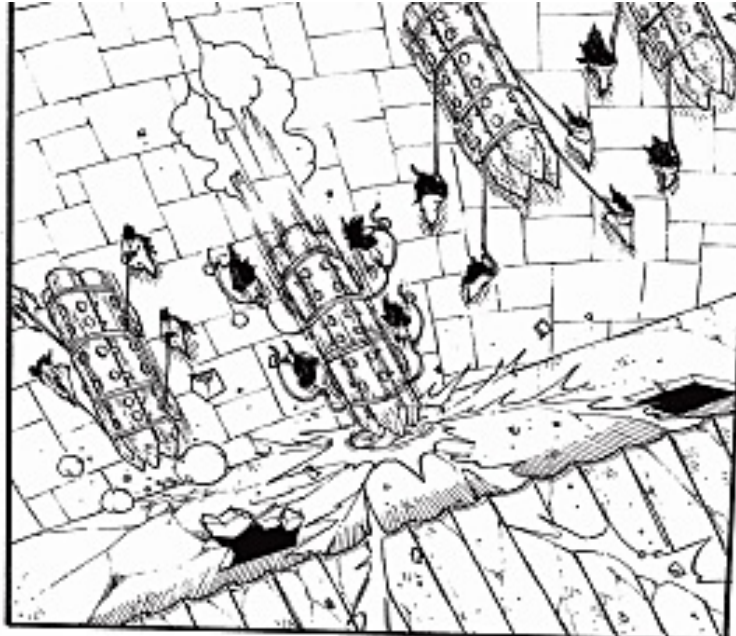


Chapter 62: When the Fairy Fell



イッ!

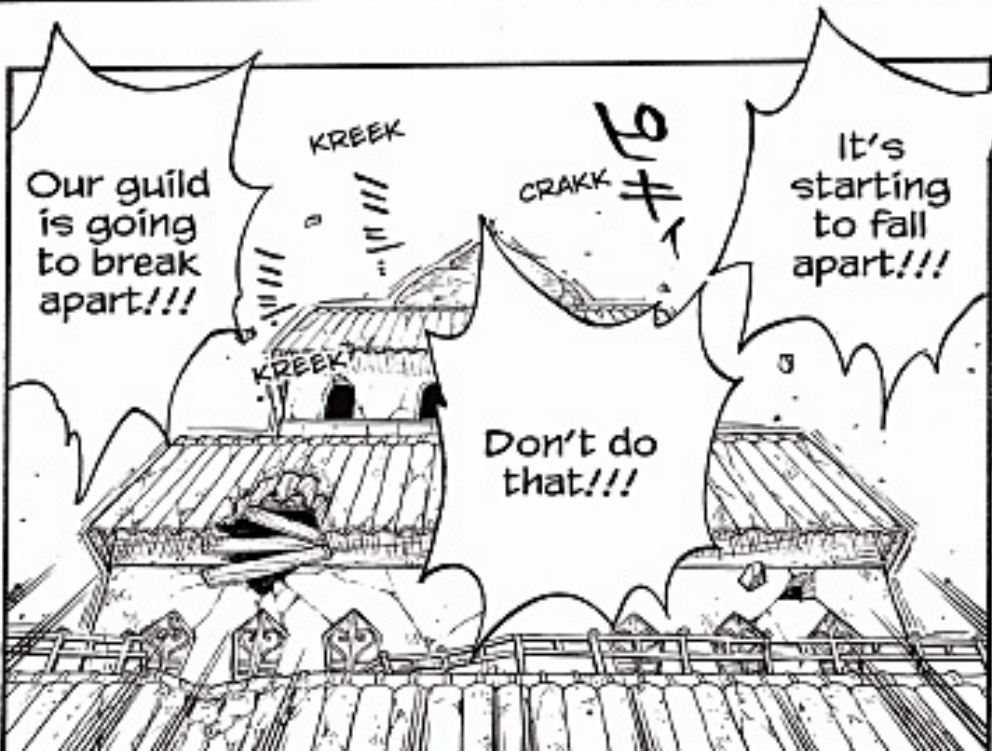




What do
you think
you're
doing
to my
guild?!!!



**Dammit
!!!**



Our guild
is going
to break
apart!!!

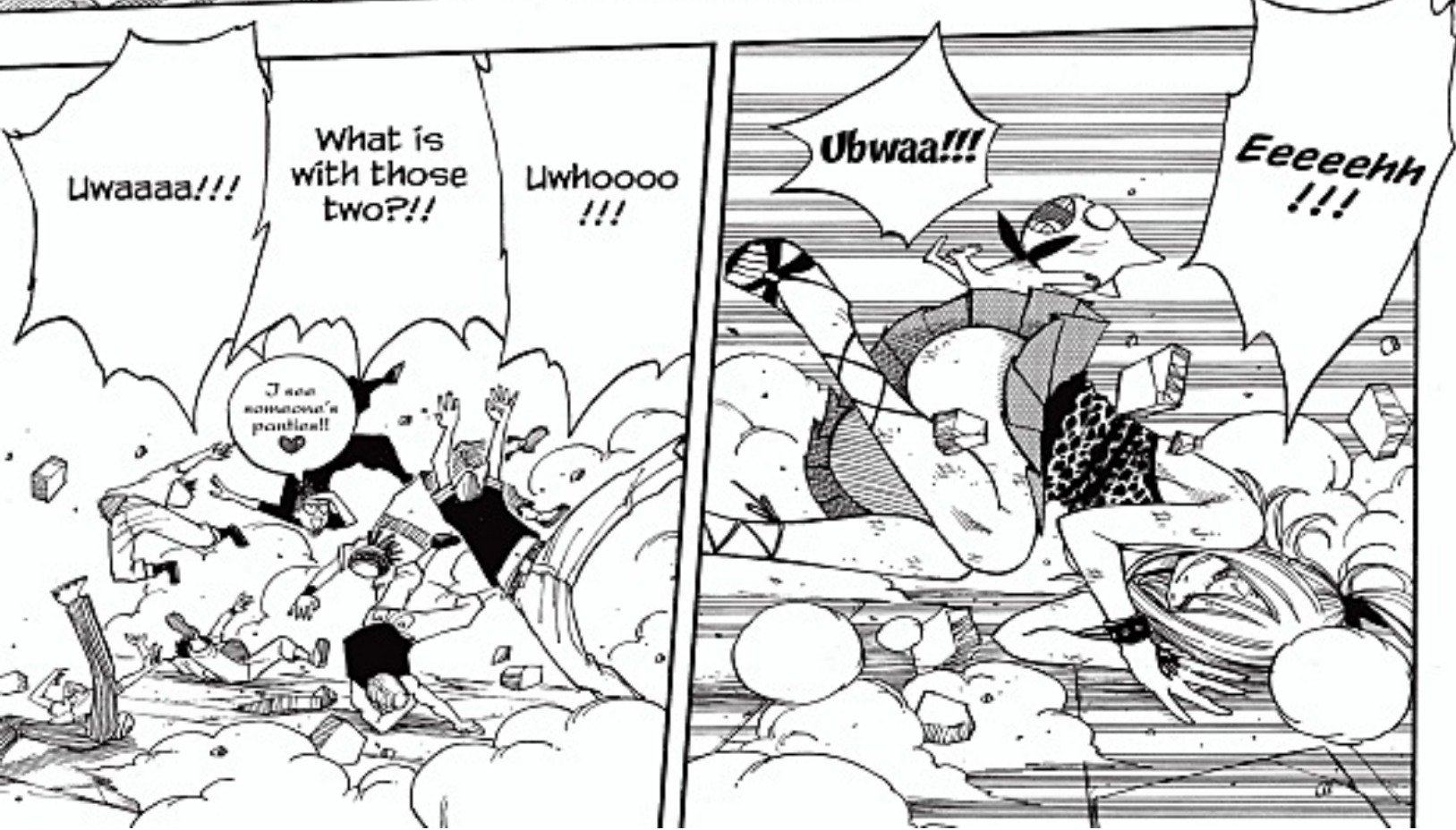
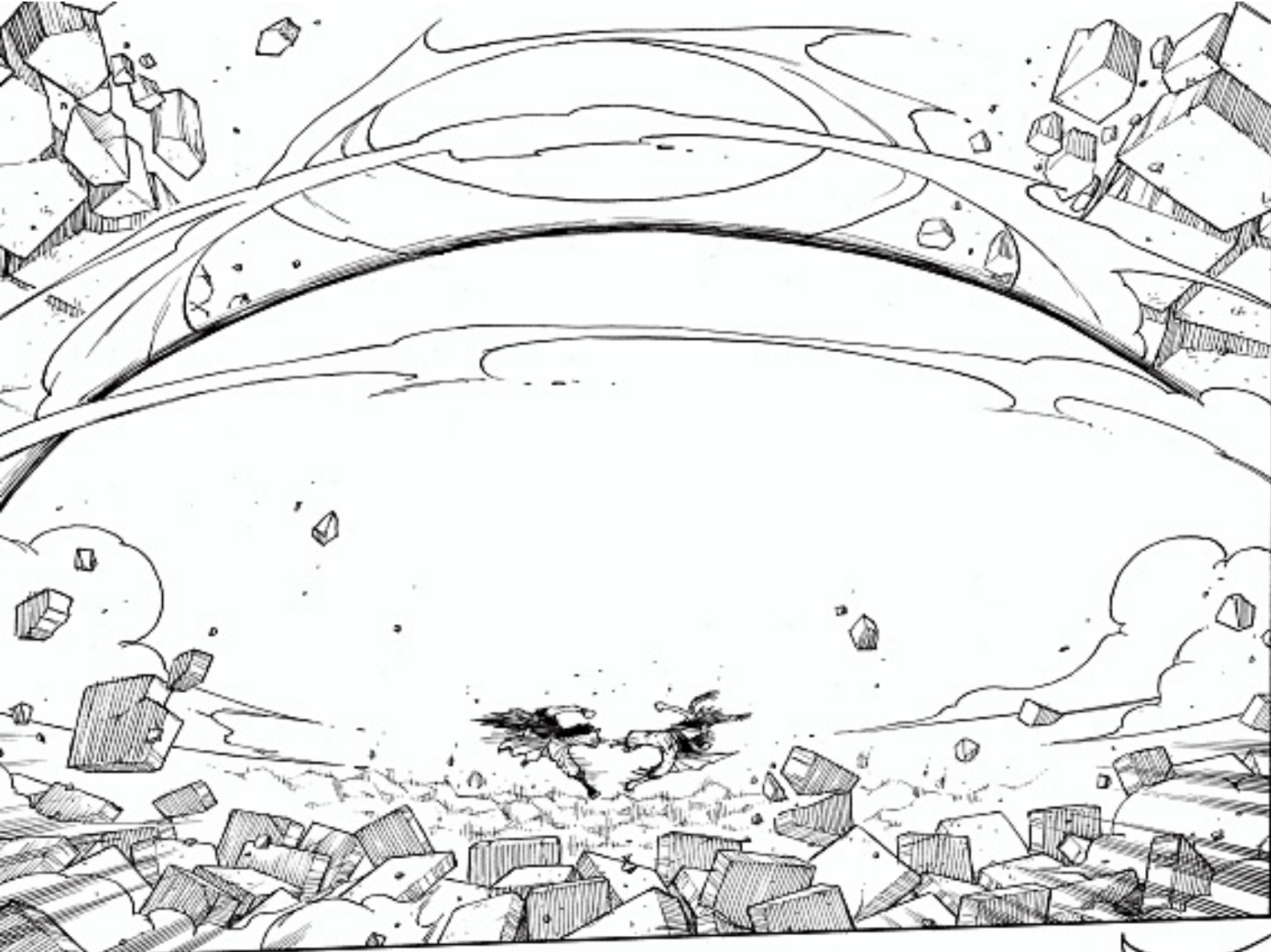
KREEK

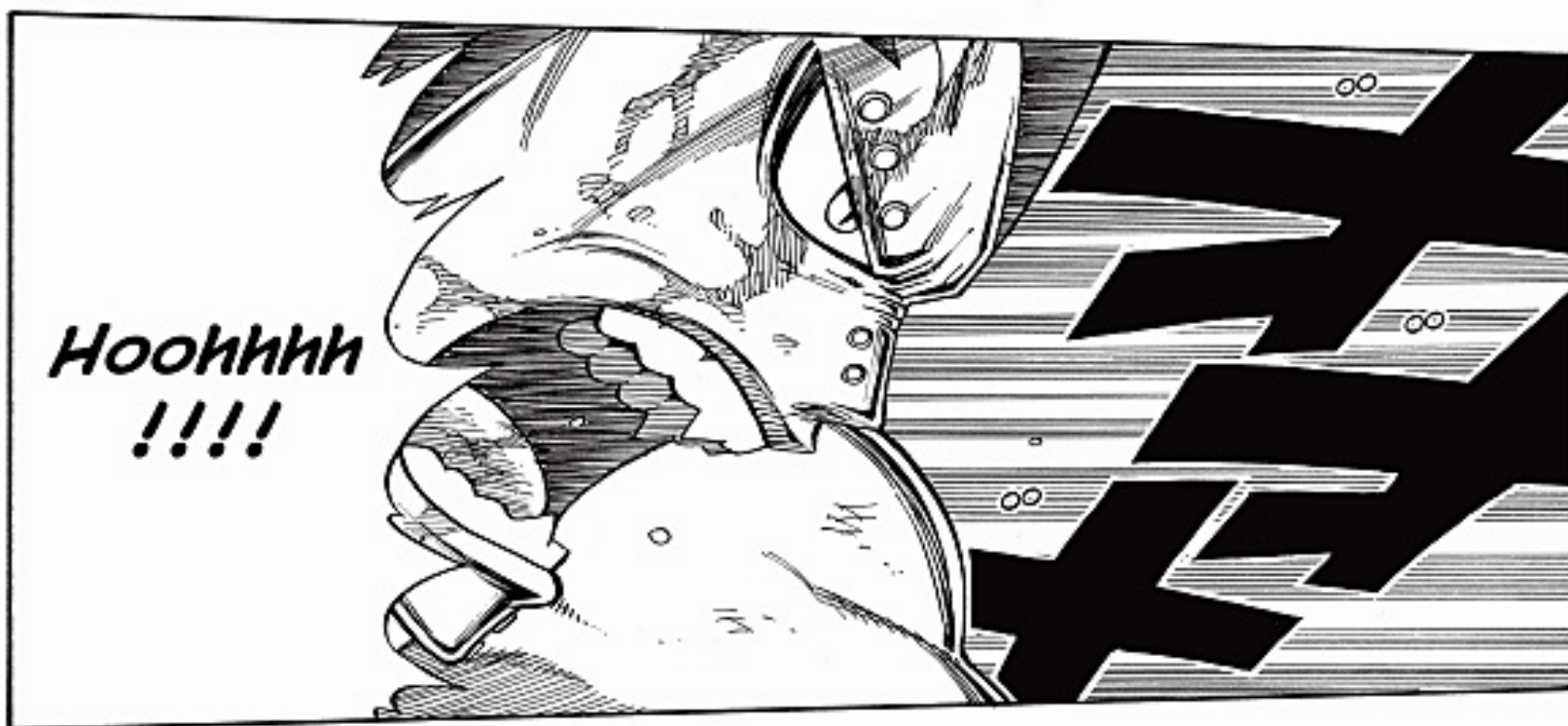
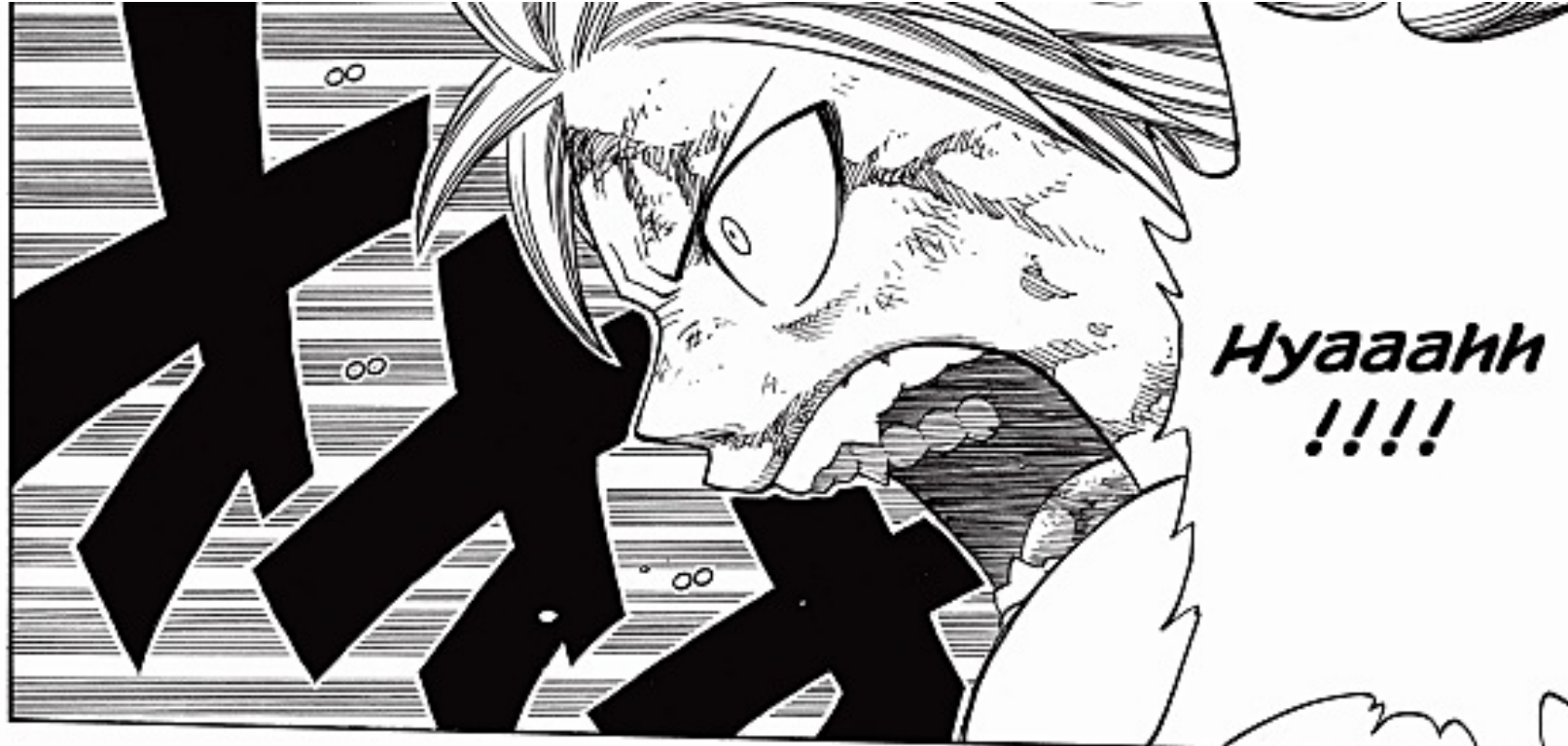
CRAKK

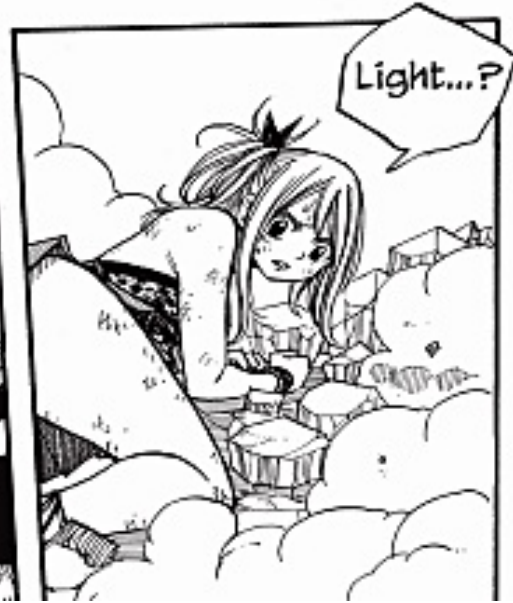
It's
starting
to fall
apart!!!

Don't do
that!!!



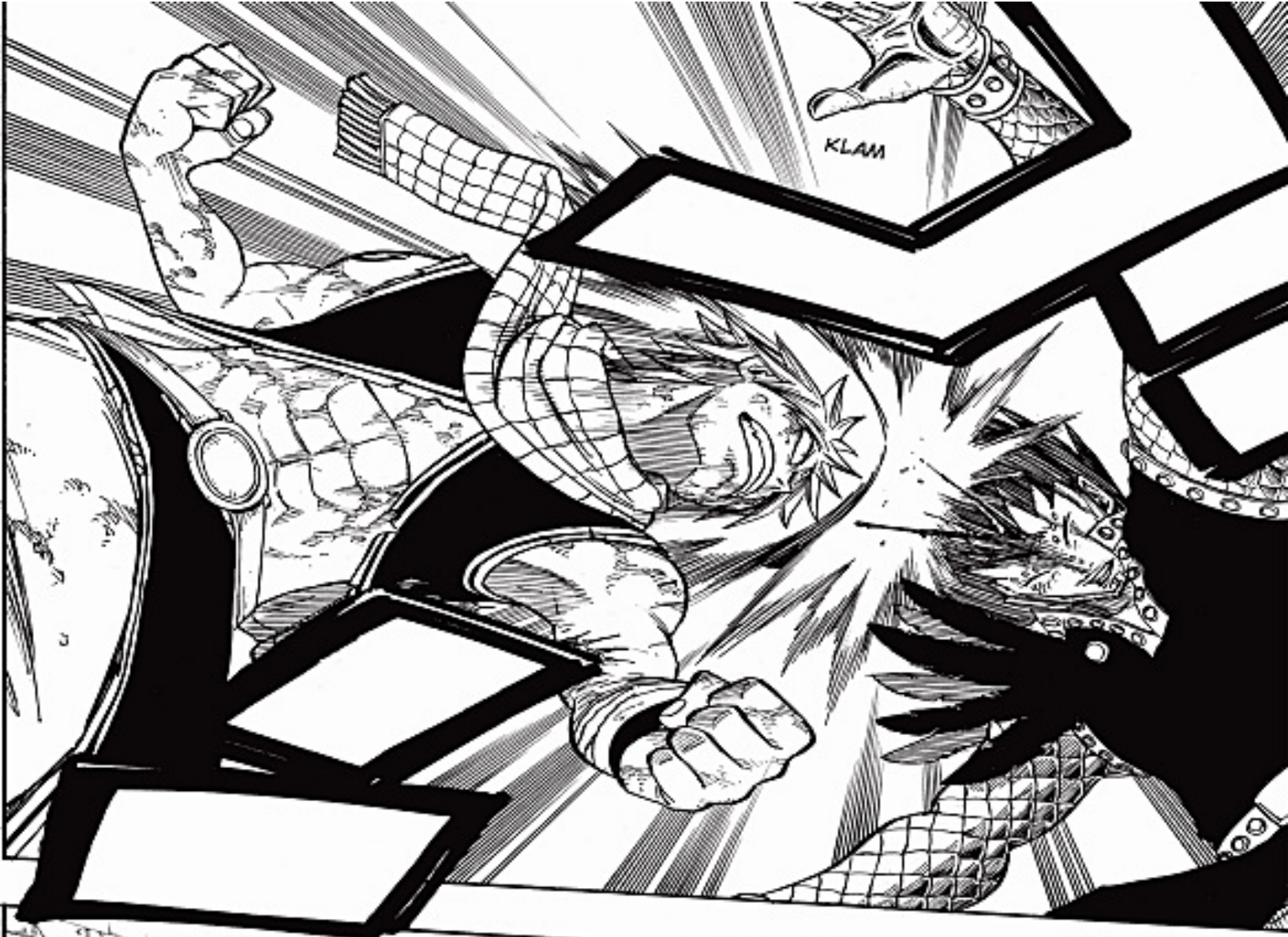








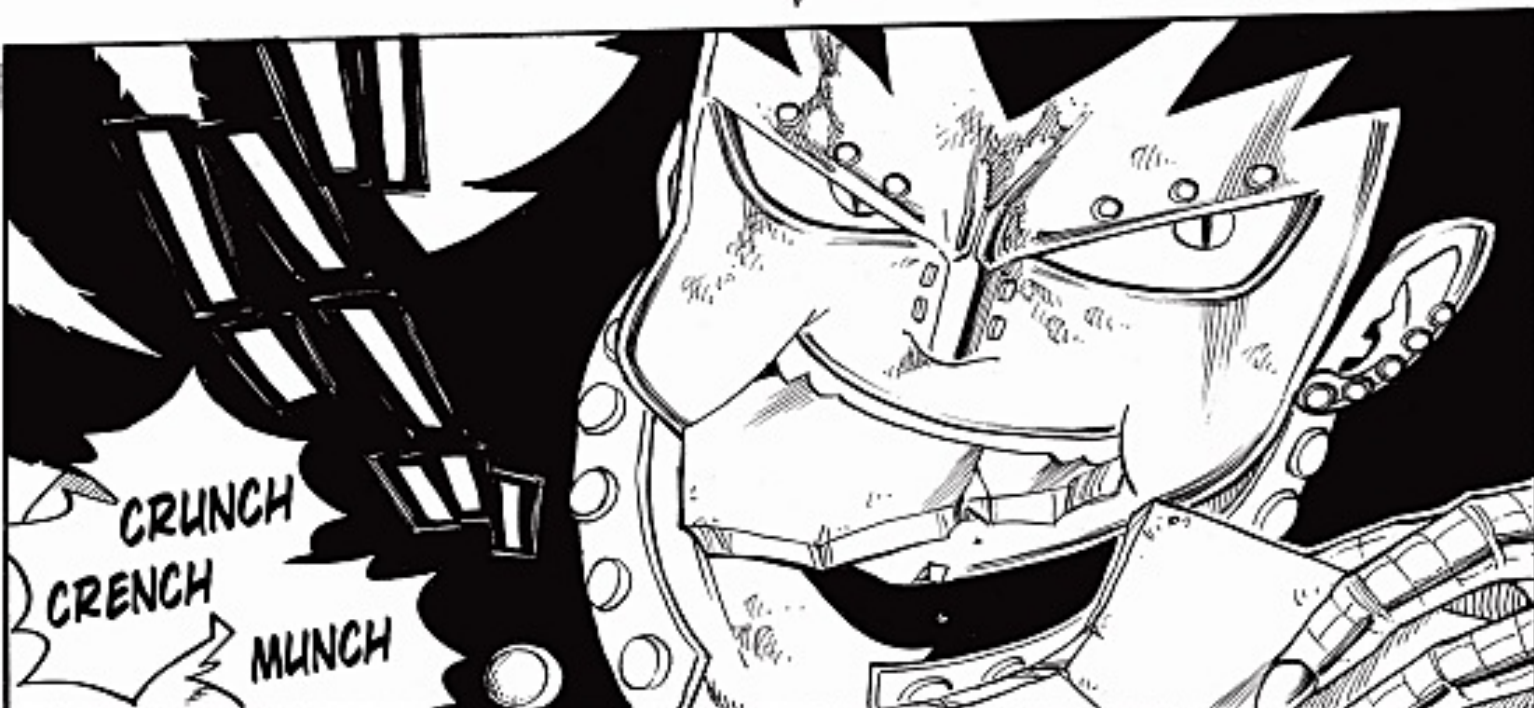
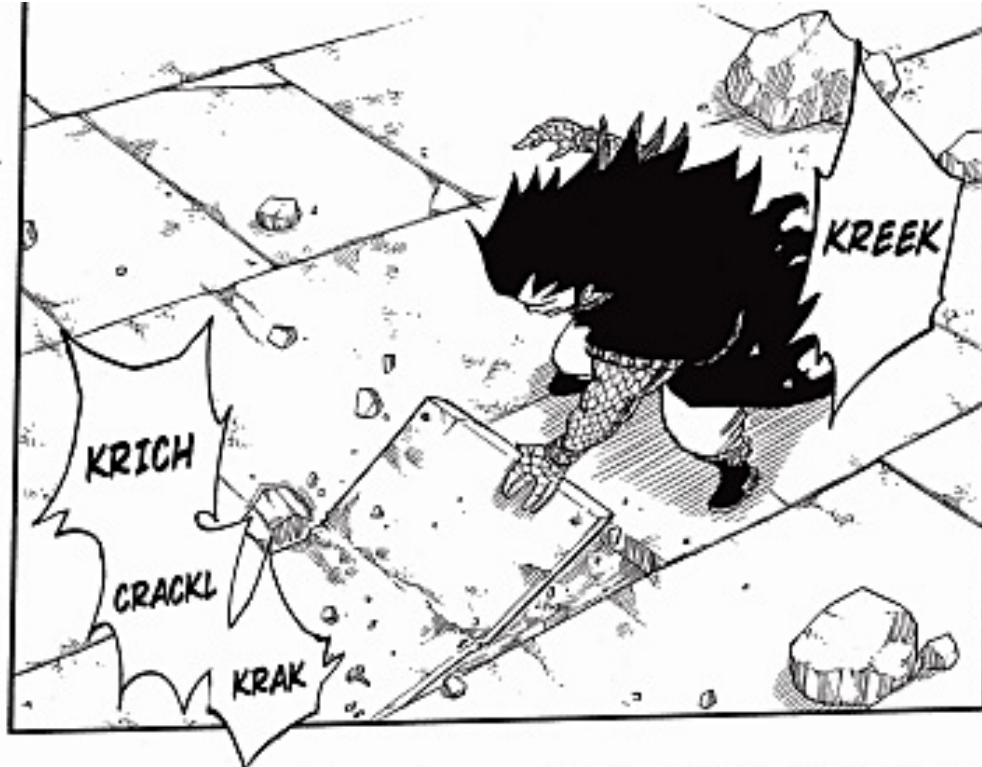


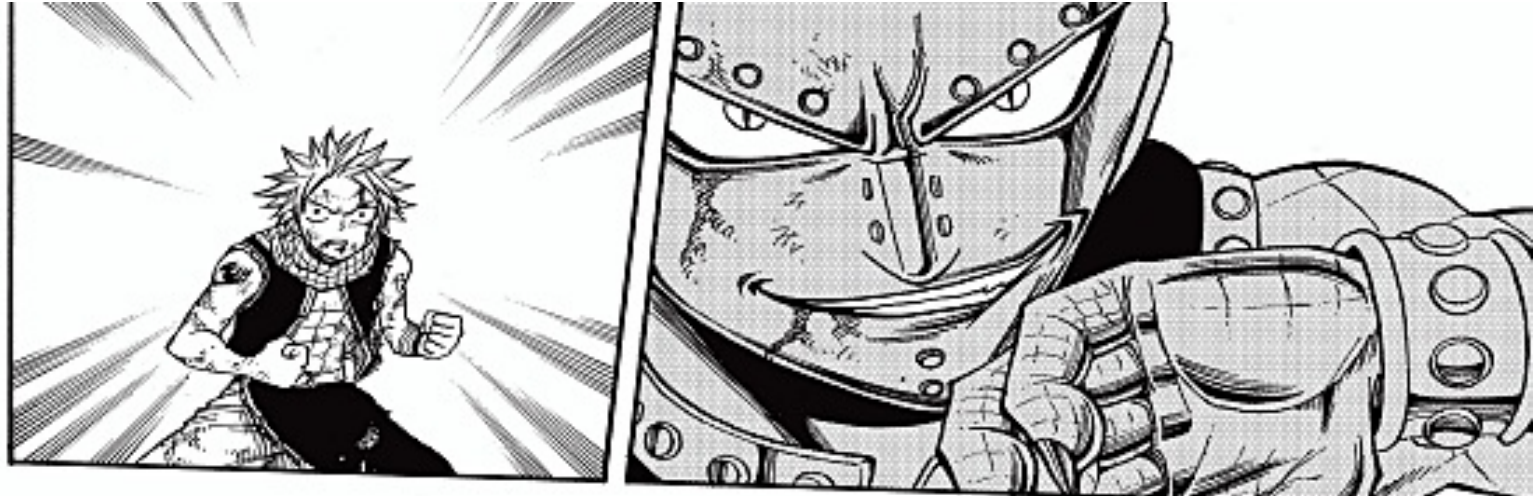


No... Salamander's breathing is pretty ragged, too!

Is Gajeel being beaten down...?!



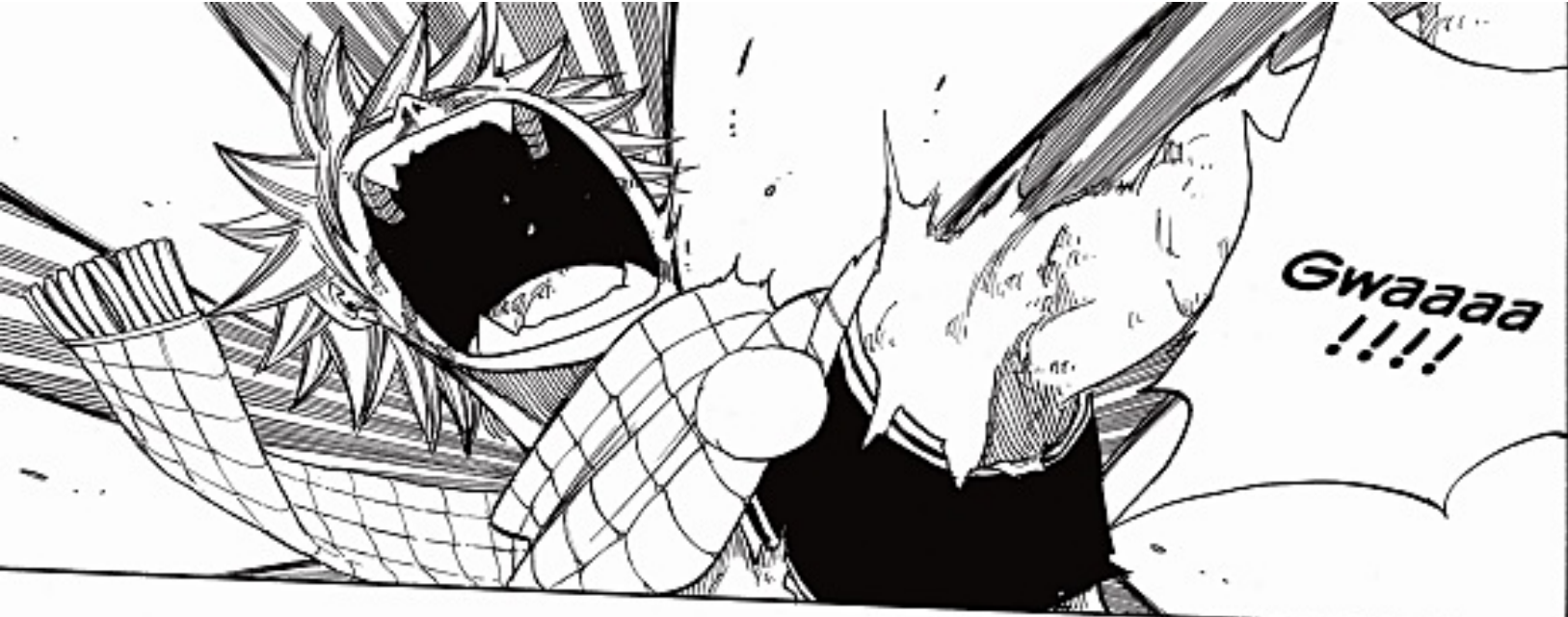




*Iron Dragon Lance: Demon Logs



*Tetsuryû
Sô: Kishin
!!!!**



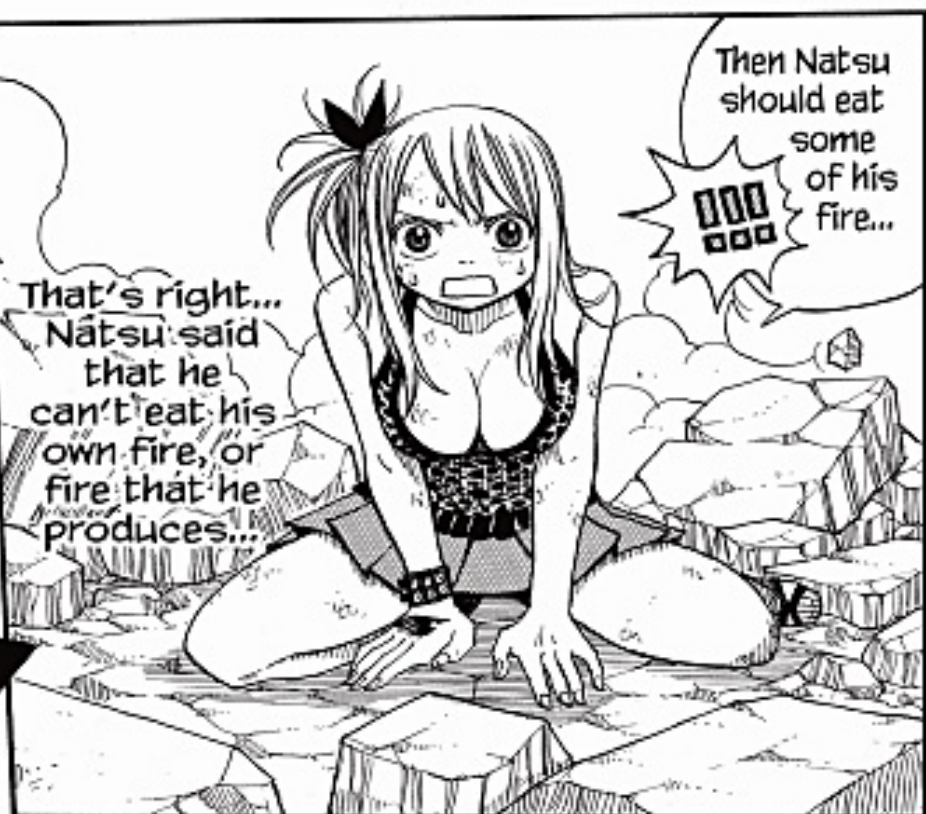
Gwaaaa
!!!



When a dragon
slayer eats
material that
matches his
abilities, he can
recover and even
get extra
power!!

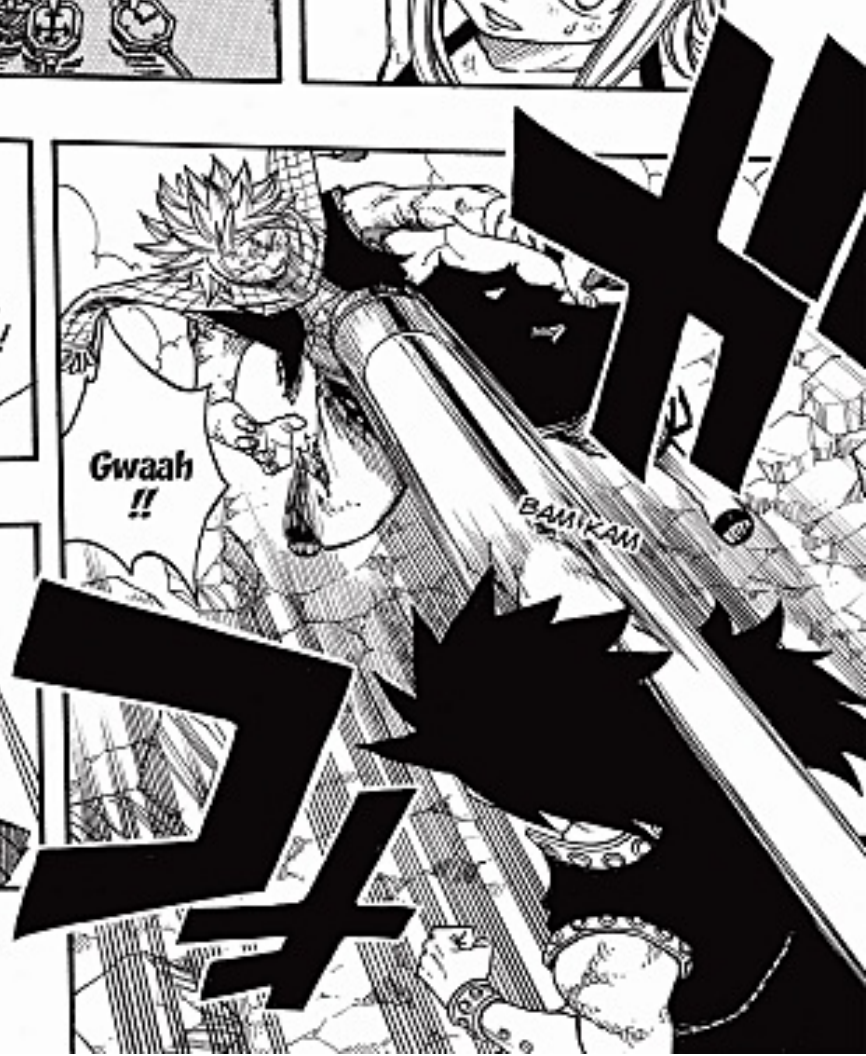
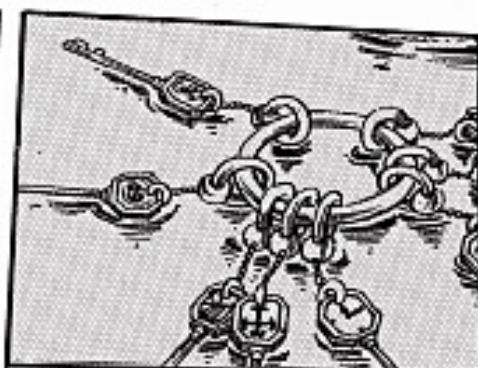


What?!
Just a few
seconds ago,
he looked like
he was about
to faint!!



That's right...
Natsu said
that he
can't eat his
own fire, or
fire that he
produces...

Then Natsu
should eat
some
of his
fire...

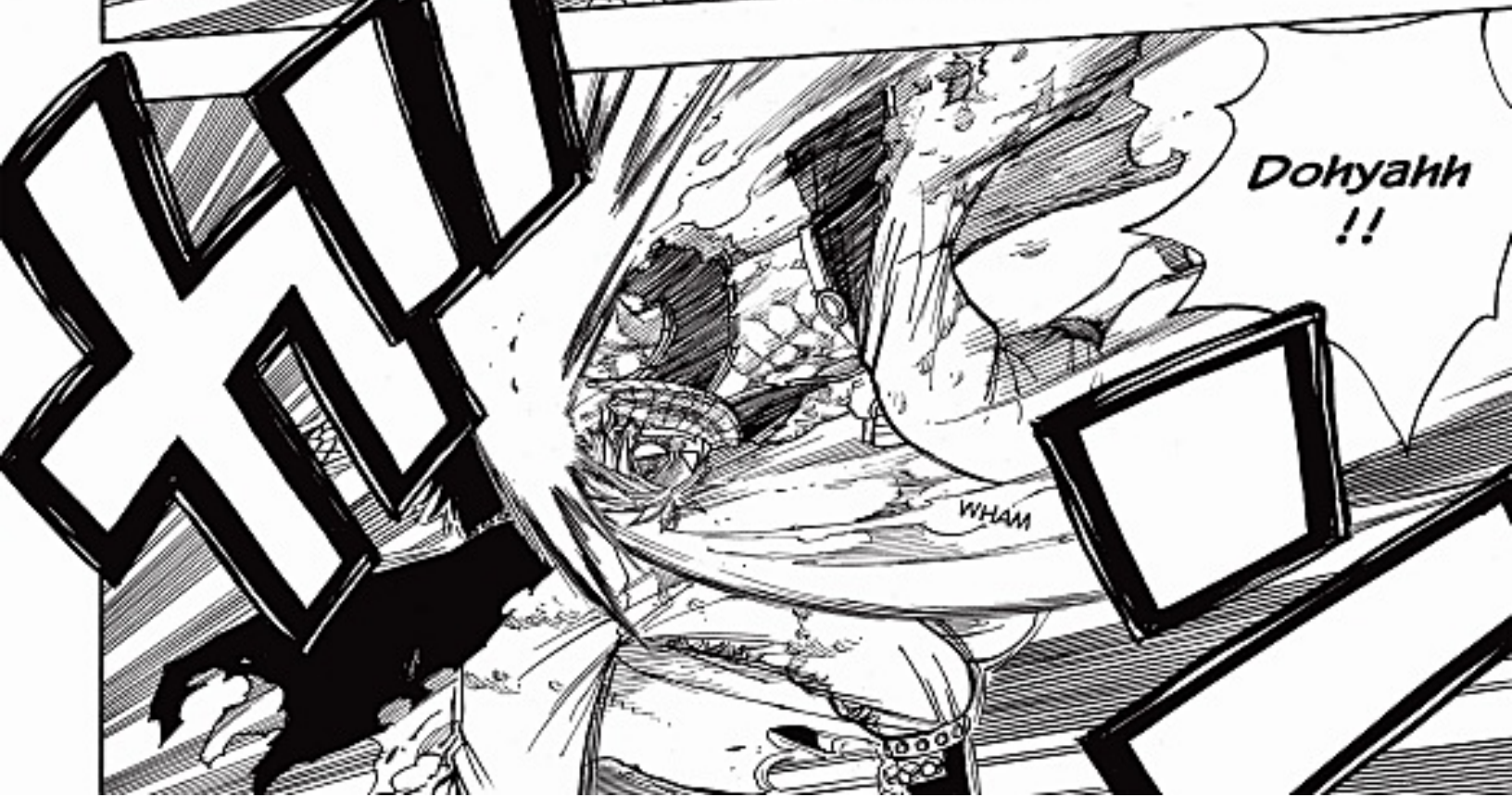


**Open!!!
Gate of the
Man-Horse
Palace!!!**

I call as one
who is bound
to the path of
the celestial
spirit world...

I call on you
to answer and
pass through
your gate!!!







GANK!

Are you so hungry you can't even put up a good fight?



!!!



Well?



Then eat hot iron !!!!



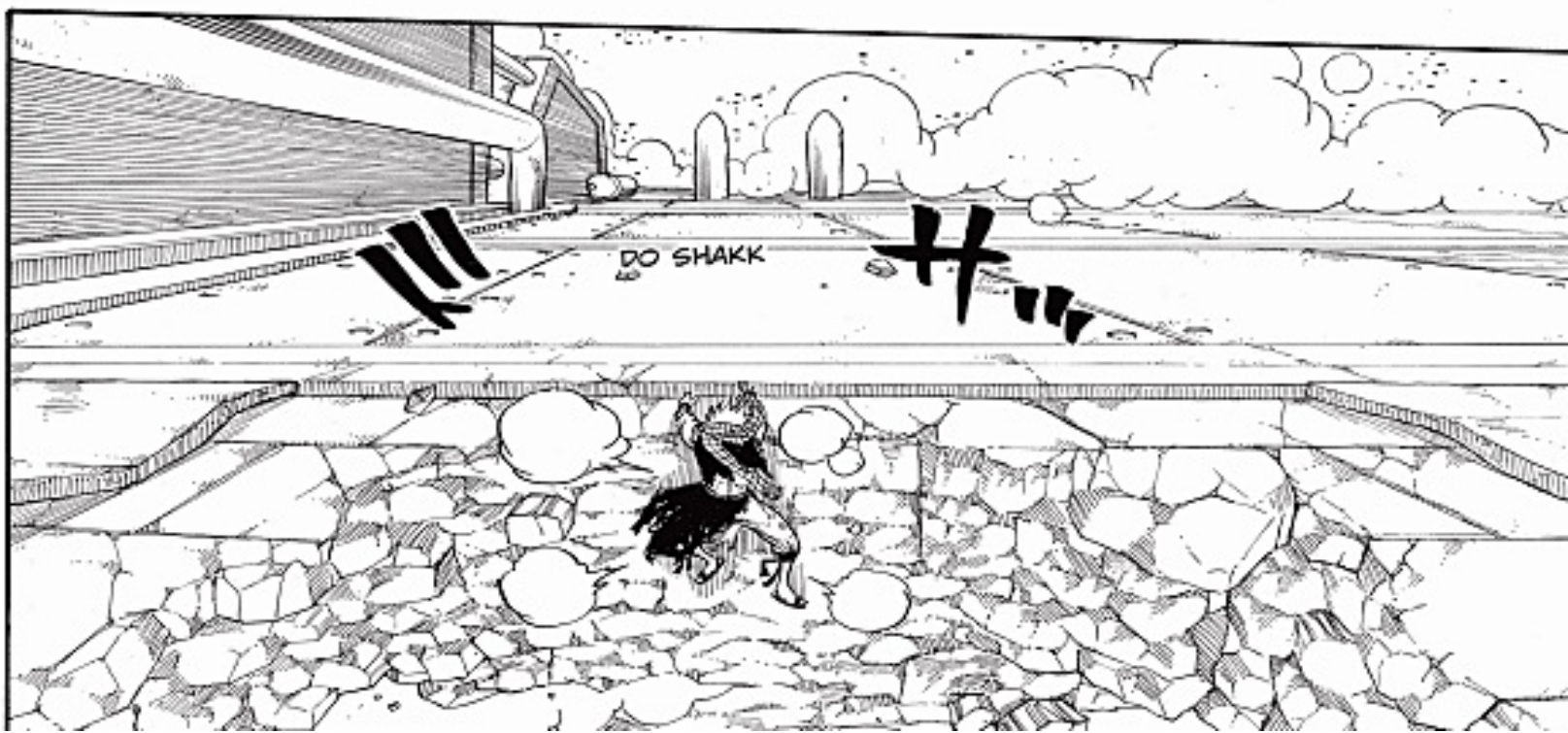
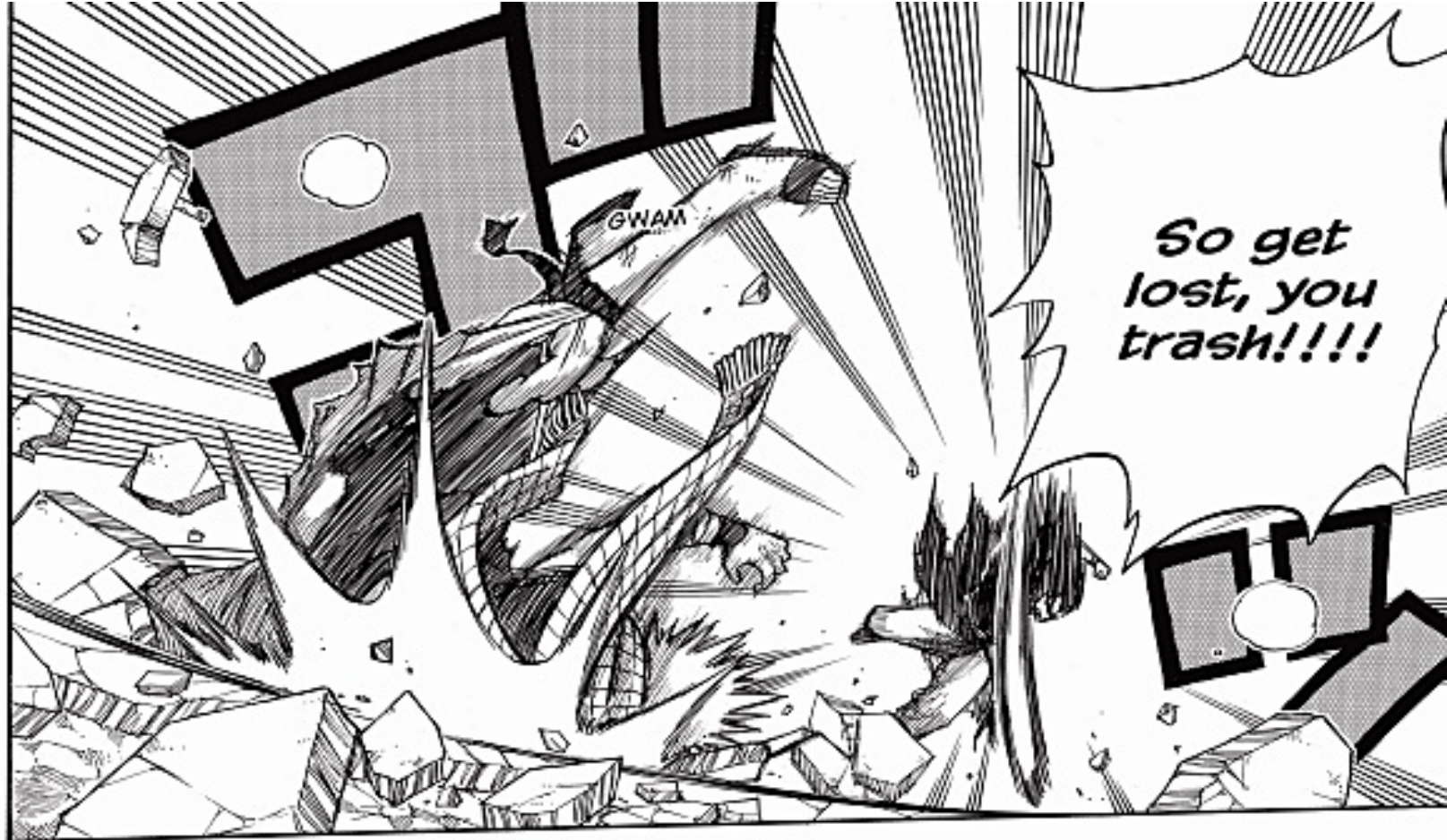
I've got no more use for you anymore!!

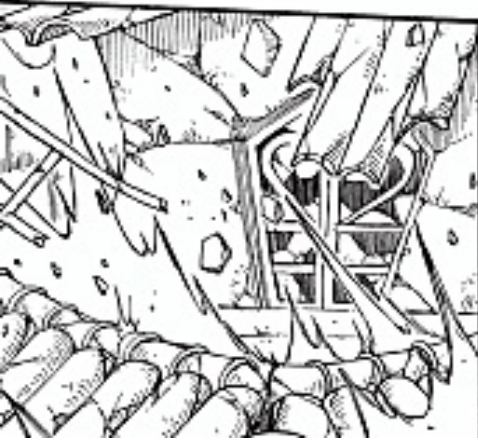


So Gajeel is stronger...

Urg...



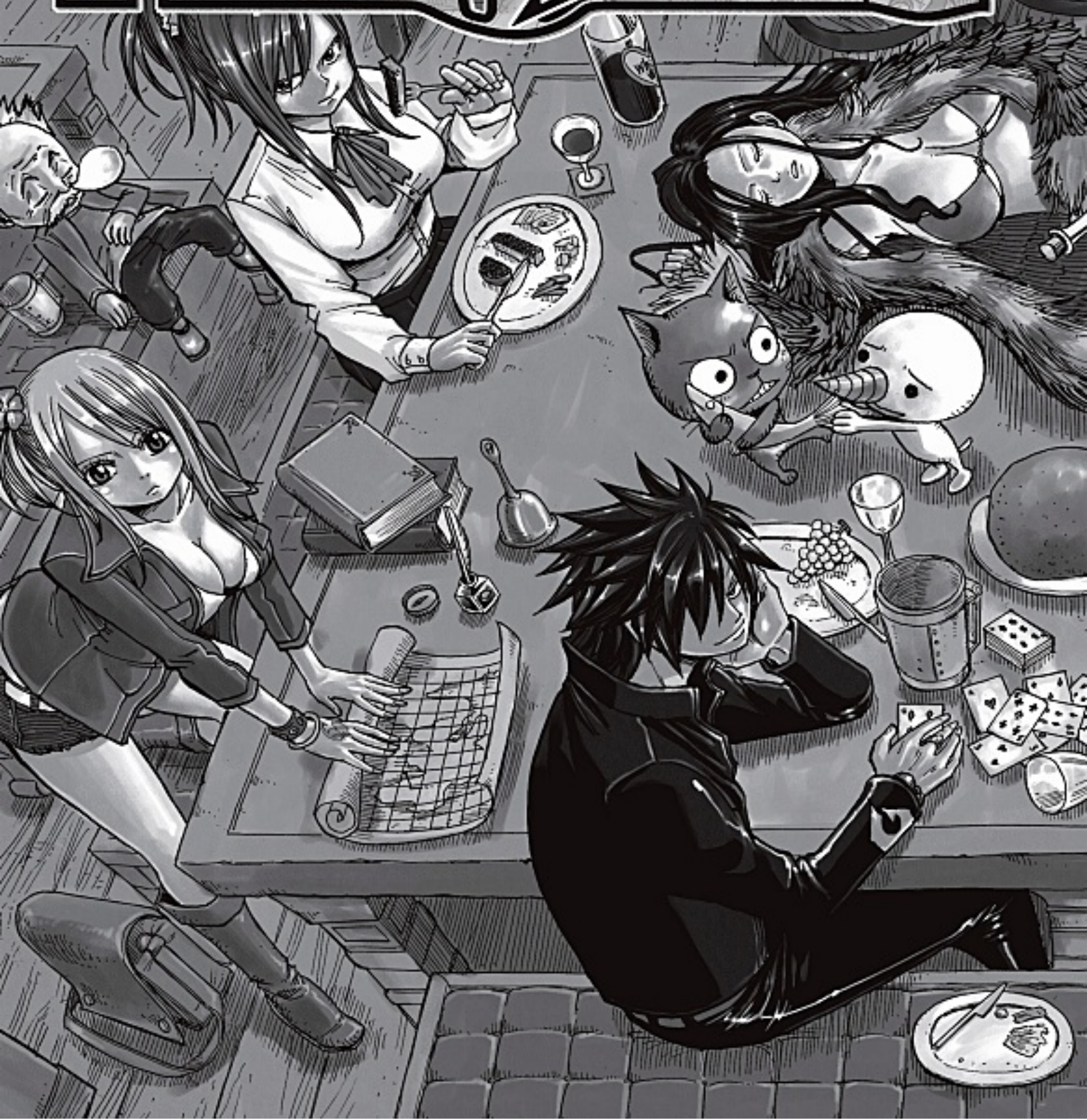


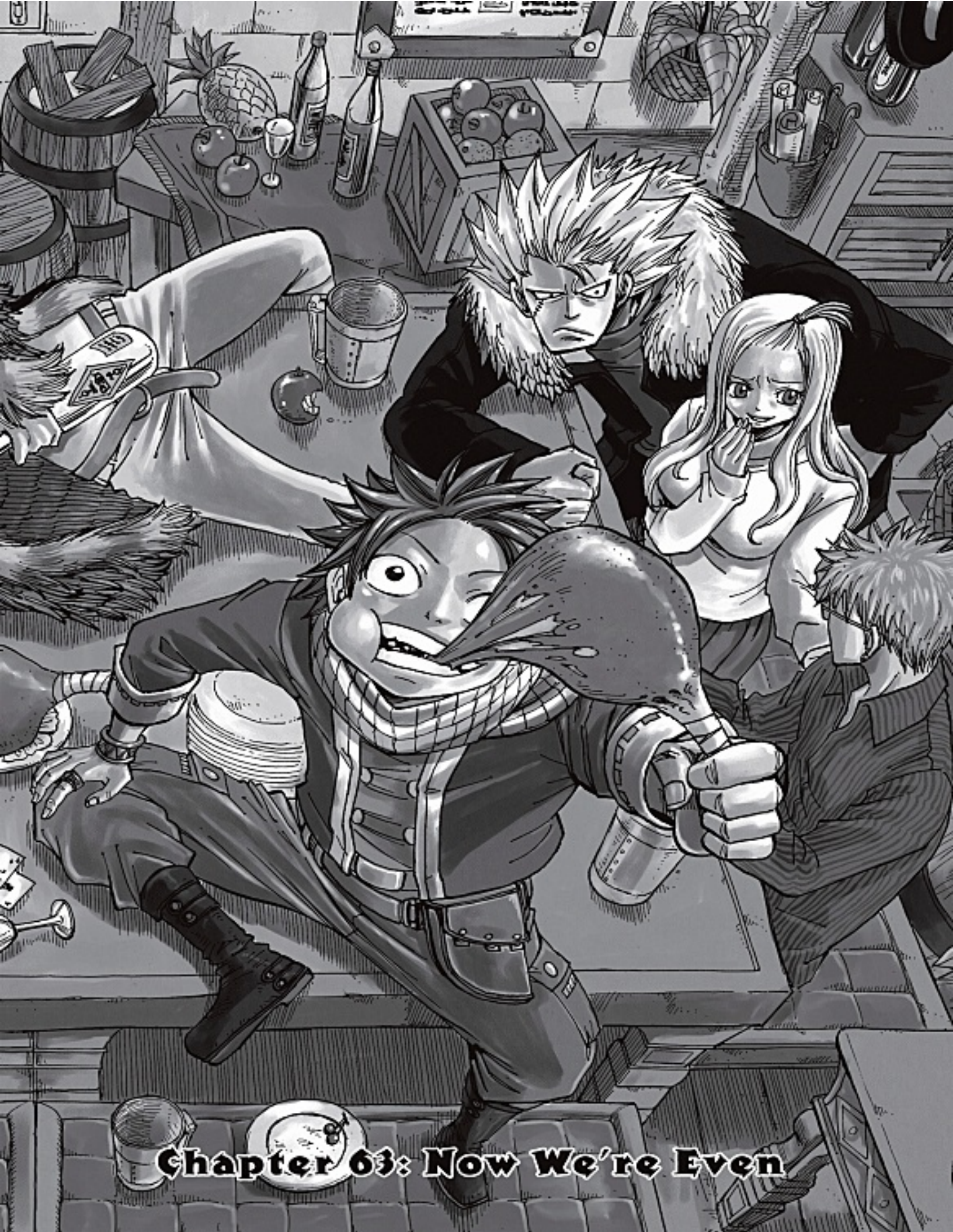






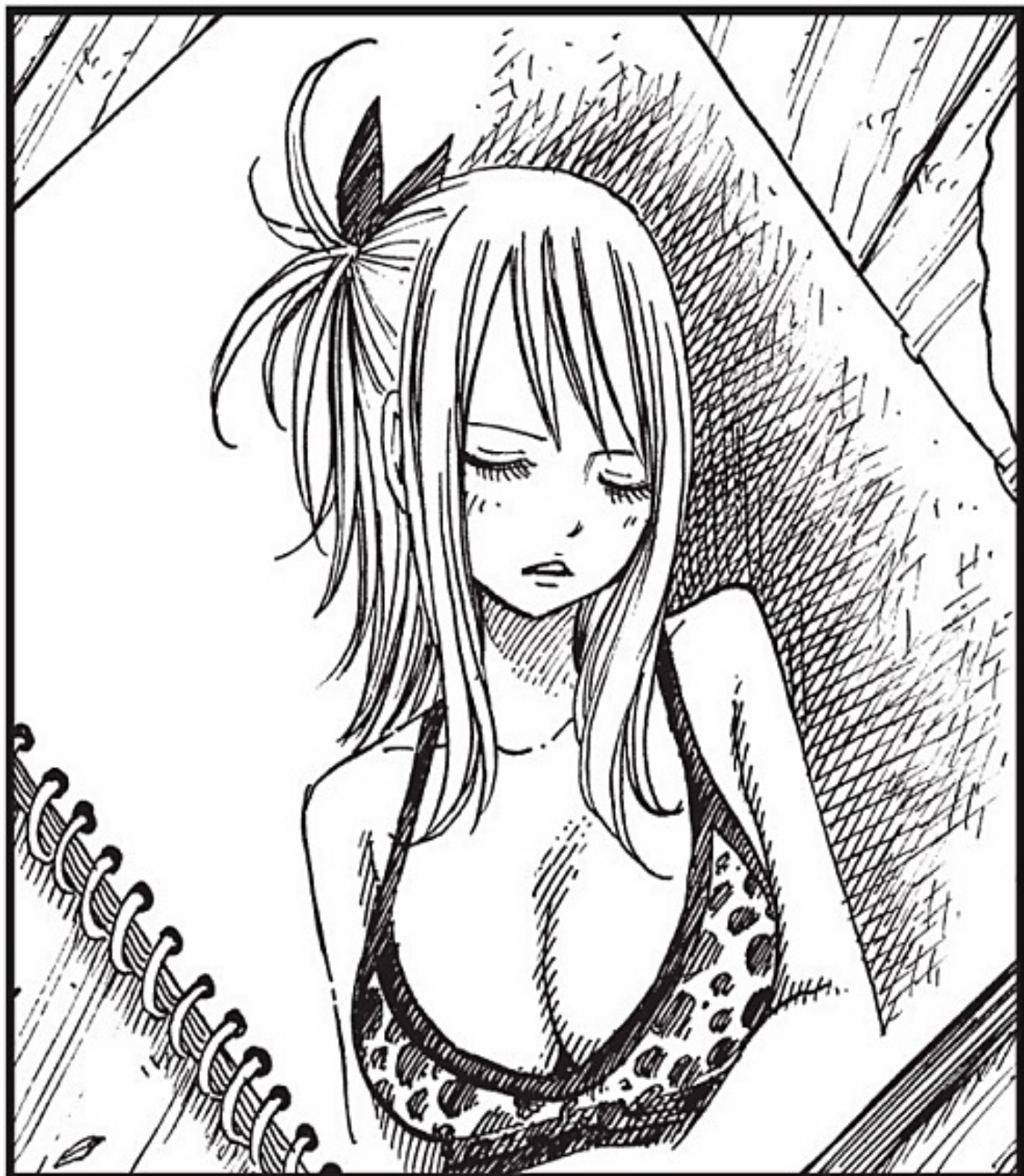
HERMIA





Chapter 63: Now We're Even

FAIRYTAIL



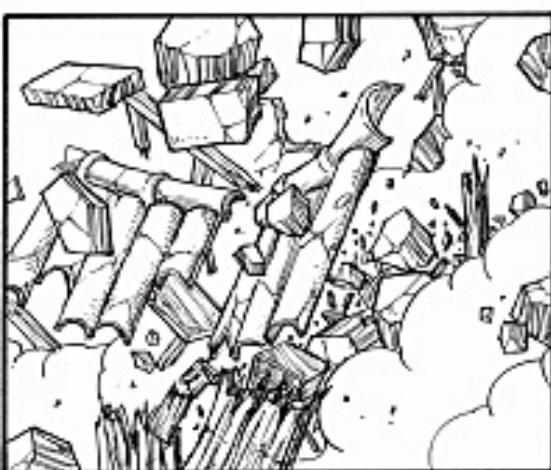




That's why it
will forever
be a mystery.
Forever be an
adventure.

Nobody could
even tell you
if fairies ever
existed or not.

Nobody knows
if fairies have
tails or not.



That meaning is
infused within
the walls of this
guild.

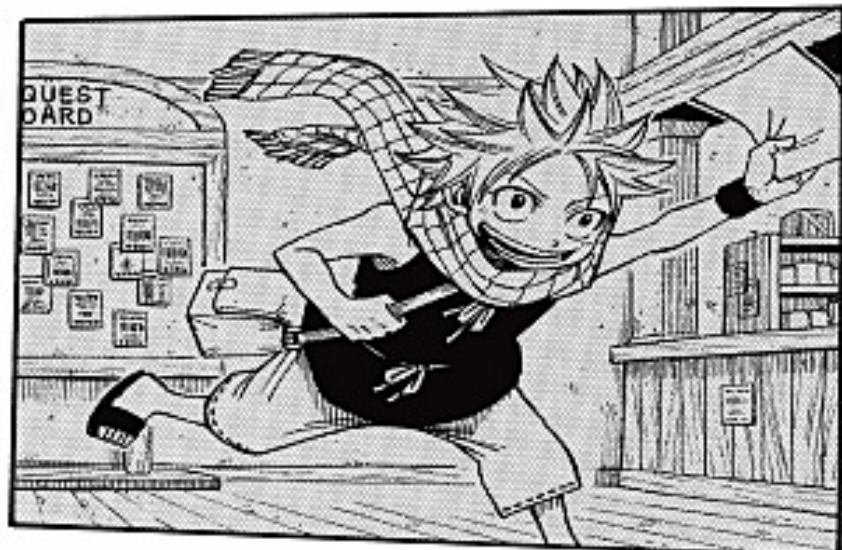


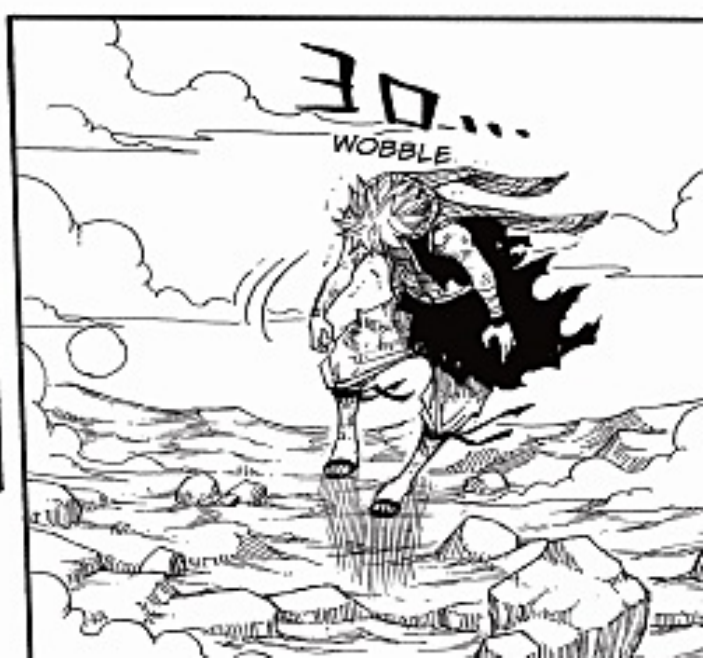
I am Erza.
Nice to
meet you.



Gray!!
Your
clothes!!!

Who do
you think
you are?!



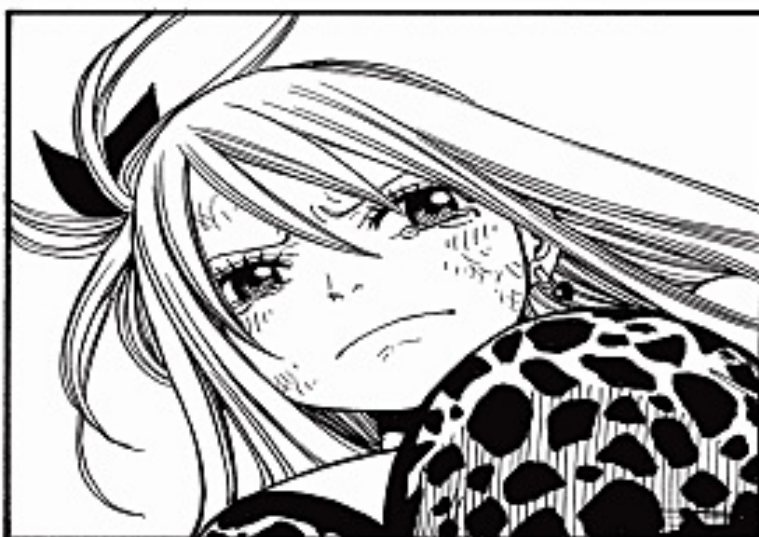




If I just
turn
myself
over to
them...



You've...
done
enough,
Natsu...



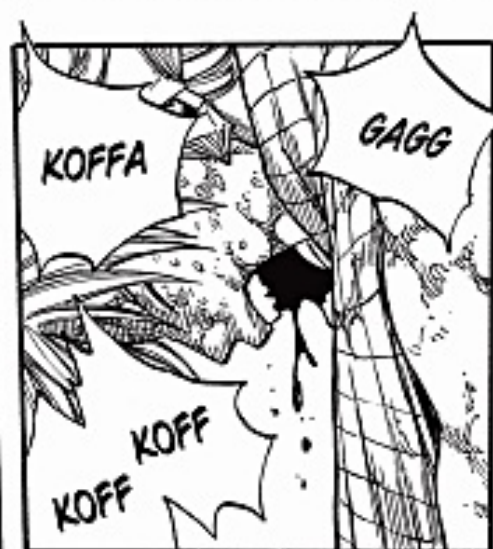
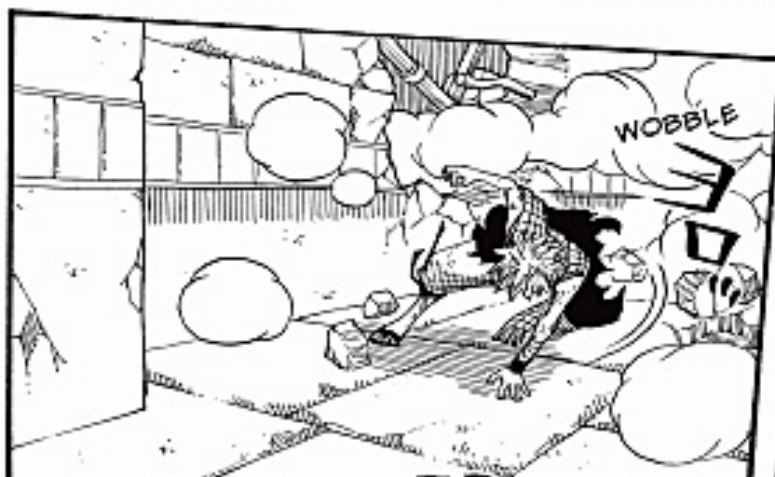
Natsu
hasn't
given up
yet.



Your
guild's in
ruins.

And you
lost.





I may just
kill you for
real!!!
Gee hee hee!!!



I warn you!!!
I don't know
how to pull my
punches!!!

IF he
could only
eat some
fire, Natsu
would
never
lose!!!



He destroyed
Jupiter, and
he took on
your Element
Four!!!

He's used
up his
magical
powers!!!



It seems we've
had a bit of a
miscommunication
between us.
Moshi-moshi.



Now I
see...



However... the important point wasn't that I produce the fire, but that fire itself be produced, correct?

Moshi-moshi.

?

You, Miss Lucy, asked if I had any fire attacks, and I replied that I did not.

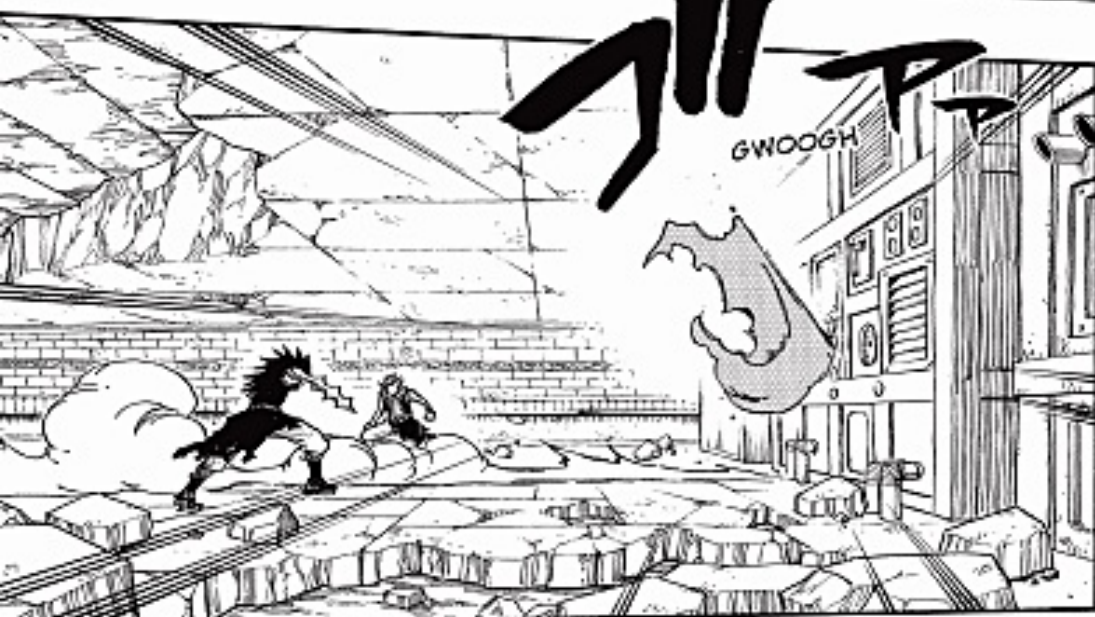
GRRRRN

SLUMP

This is the end of you, Salamander !!!

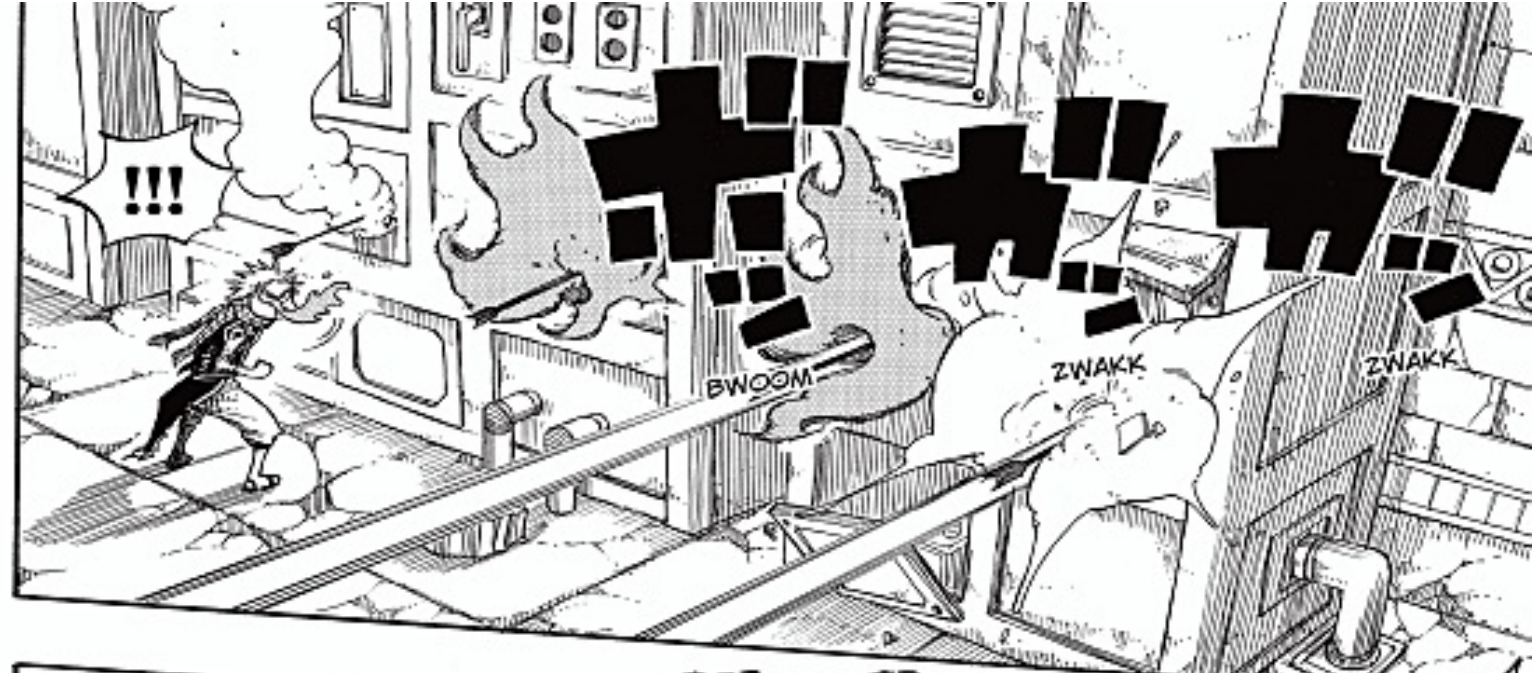
ZWIKK

Don't do it!!!!



He's
hitting the
equipment
and setting it
ablaze!!





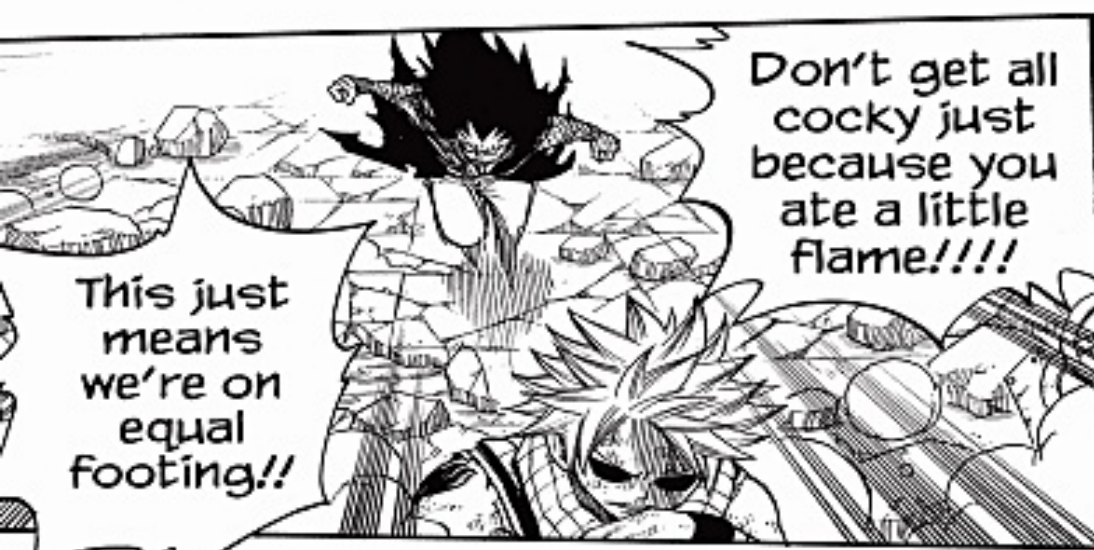


Thanks,
Lucy!!

Mmm...
That was
good.

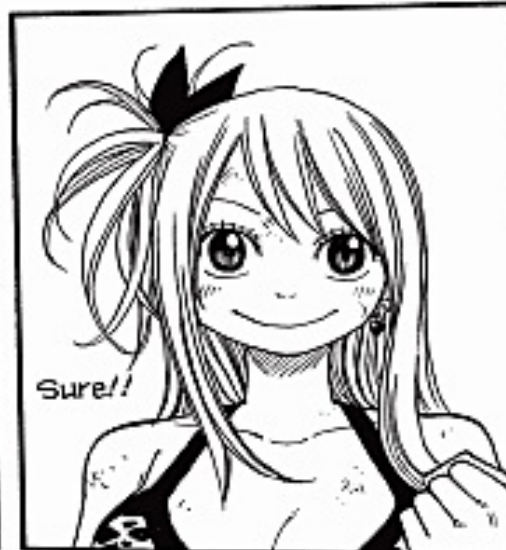


Wow!!!
You're an
absolute
genius
with a bow,
Sagittarius
!!!



This just
means
we're on
equal
footing!!

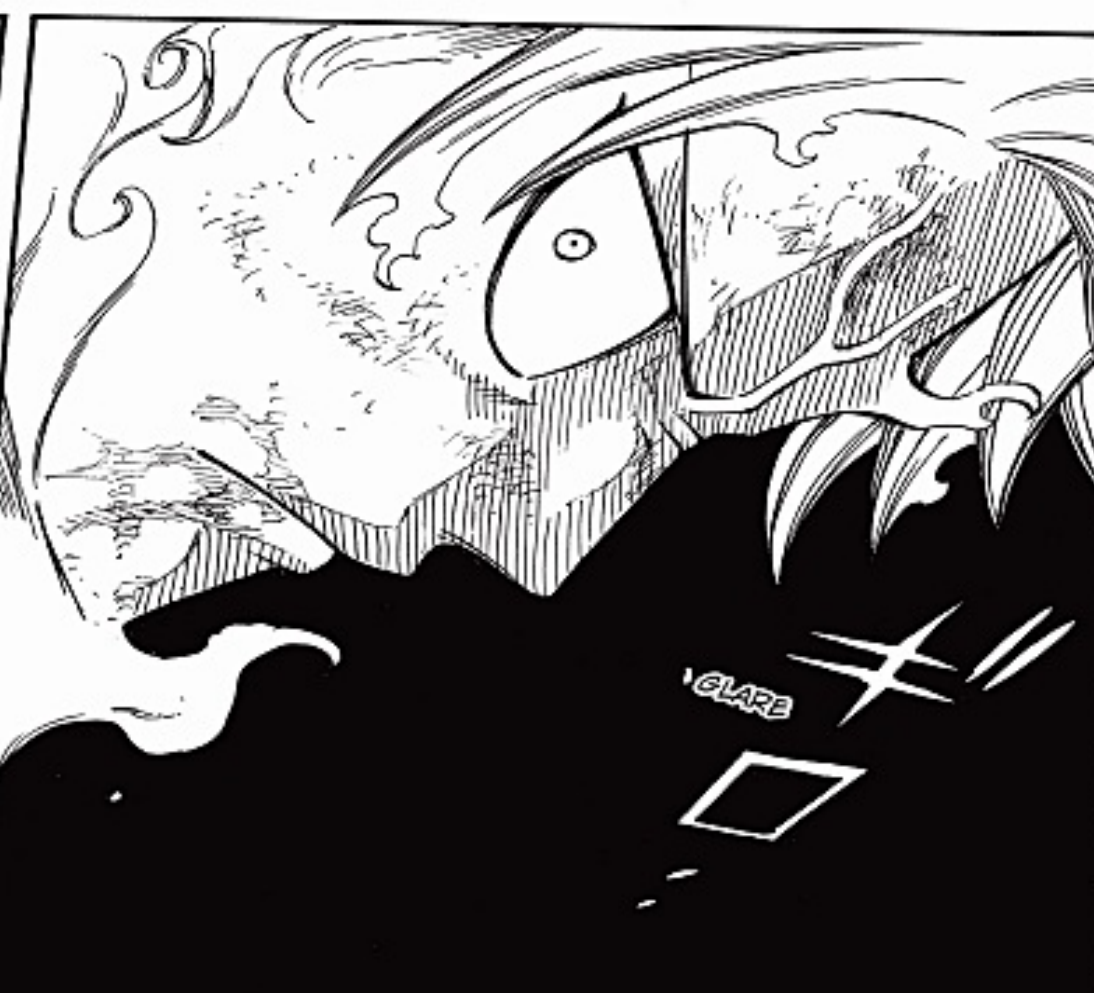
Don't get all
cocky just
because you
ate a little
flame!!!!



Sure!!



!!!



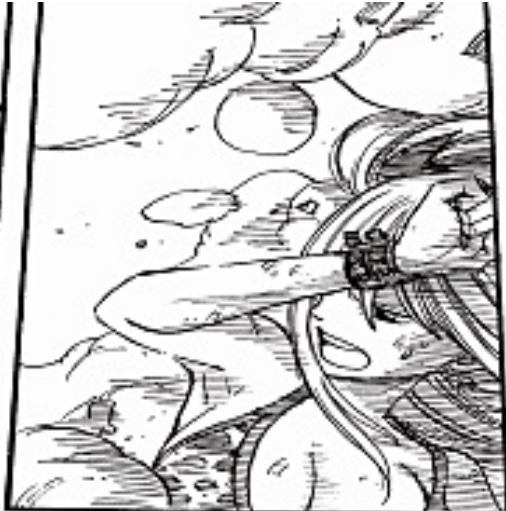
GLARE







He...
he sent
it back
at me...
?!



*How many
people do
you have to
hurt before
you guys are
satisfied?!!!!*



**... little
piece of
trash!!!!**

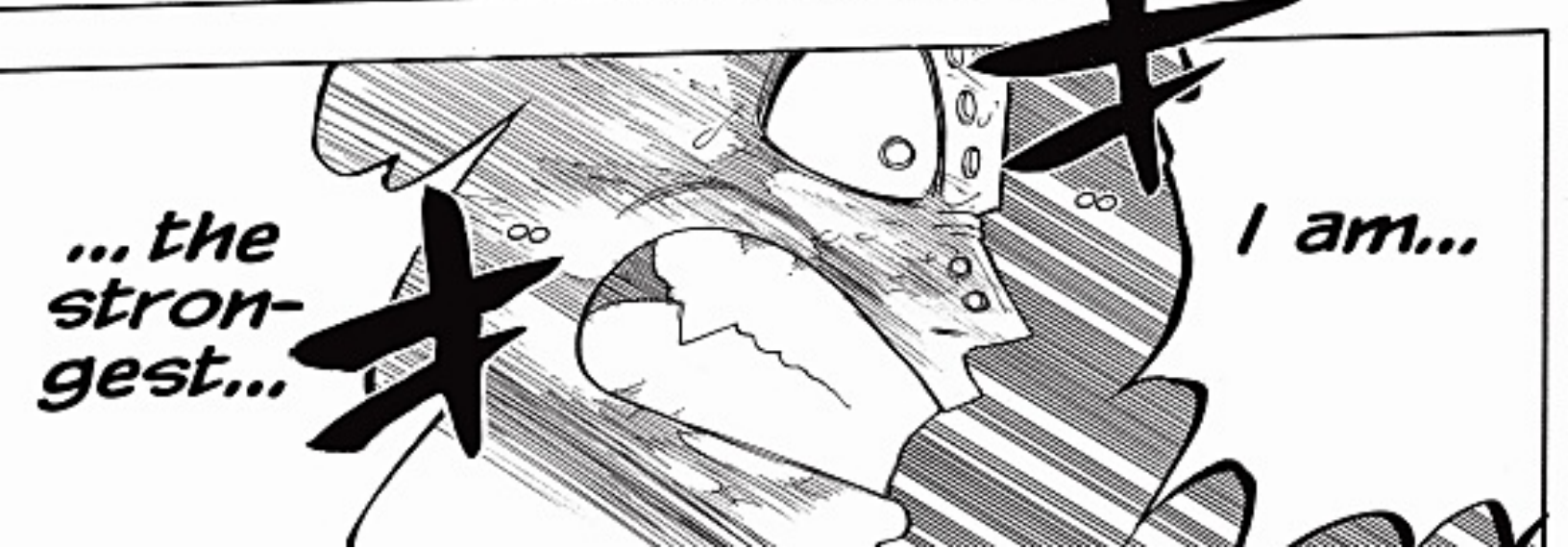
**Th-This
is
impos-
sible
!!!!**

**I can't
lose to
this...**



**You made
your
biggest
mistake
when you
decided
to tangle
with Fairy
Tail!!!!**

**You've
done a
whole lot,
and I'm
going to
pay you
back for
all of
it right
now!!!!**



**... the
strong-
est...**

I am...

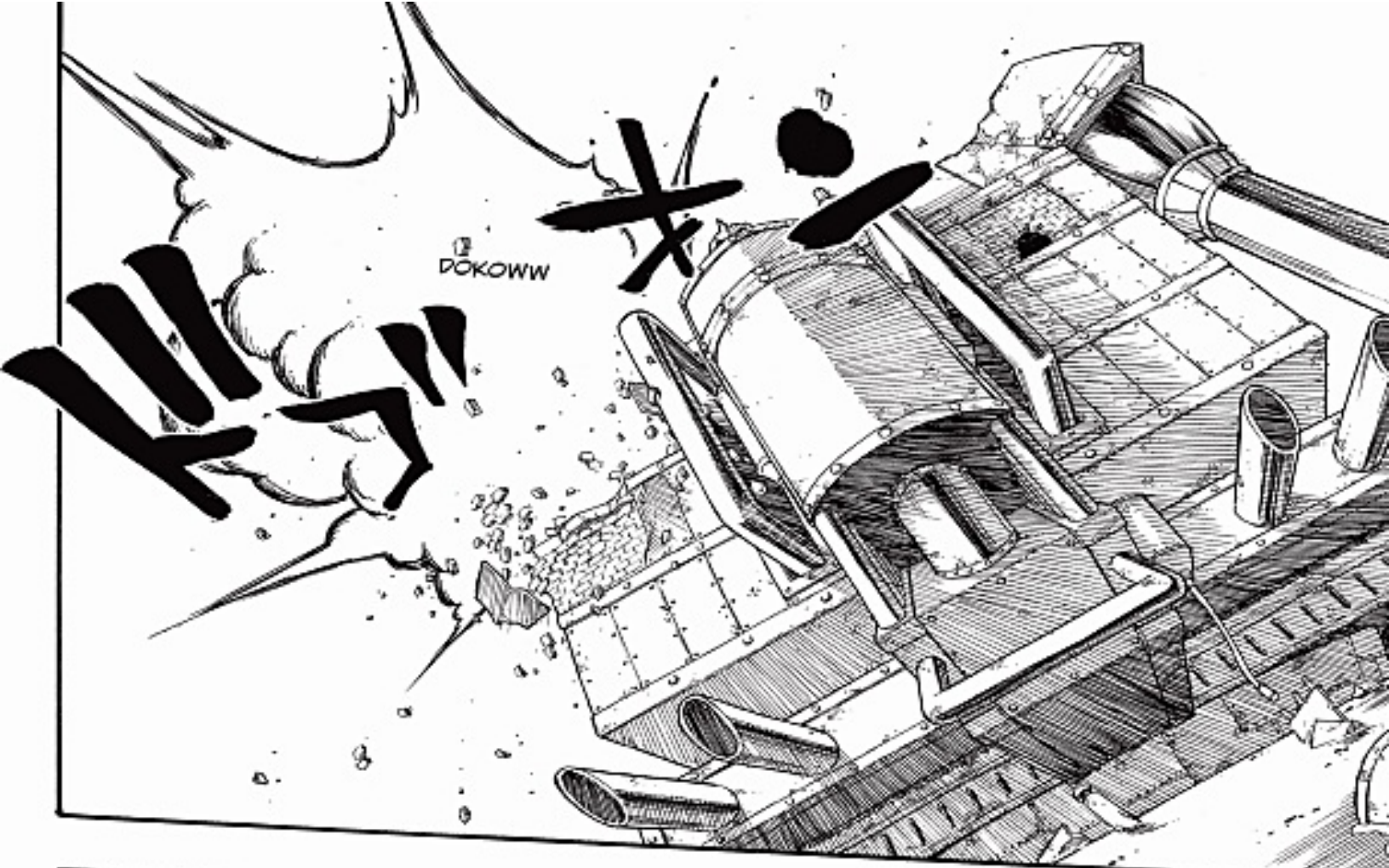


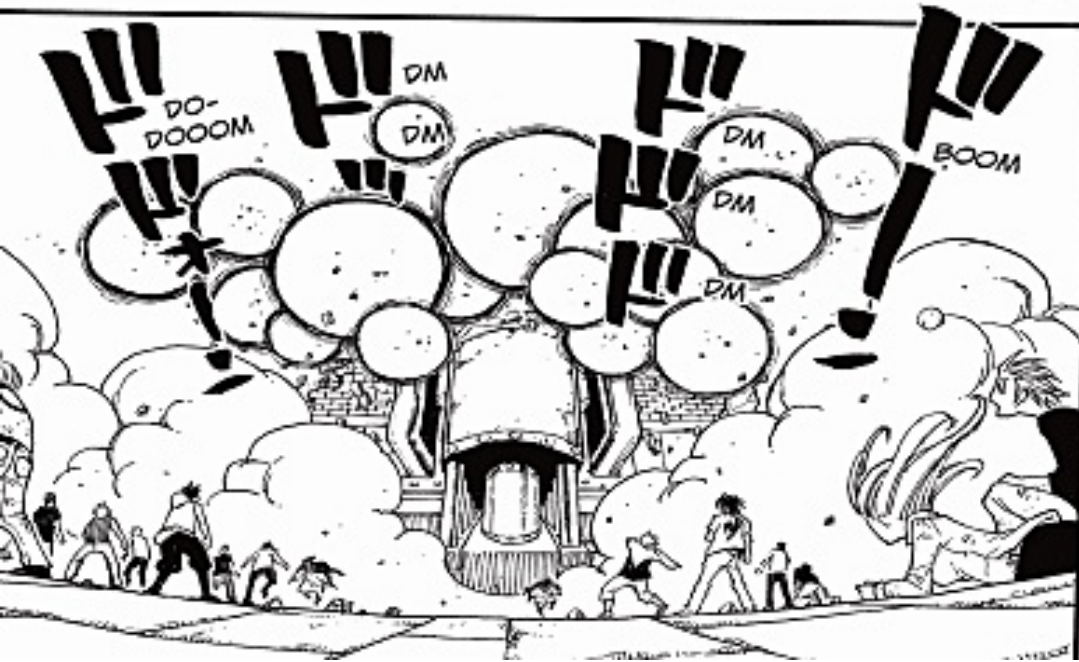
**Aaaa-
aaaaa
!!!**



**Guren:
Karyû-
ken!!!!!!***

*Flame Lotus:
Fire Dragon Fist!!!!!!



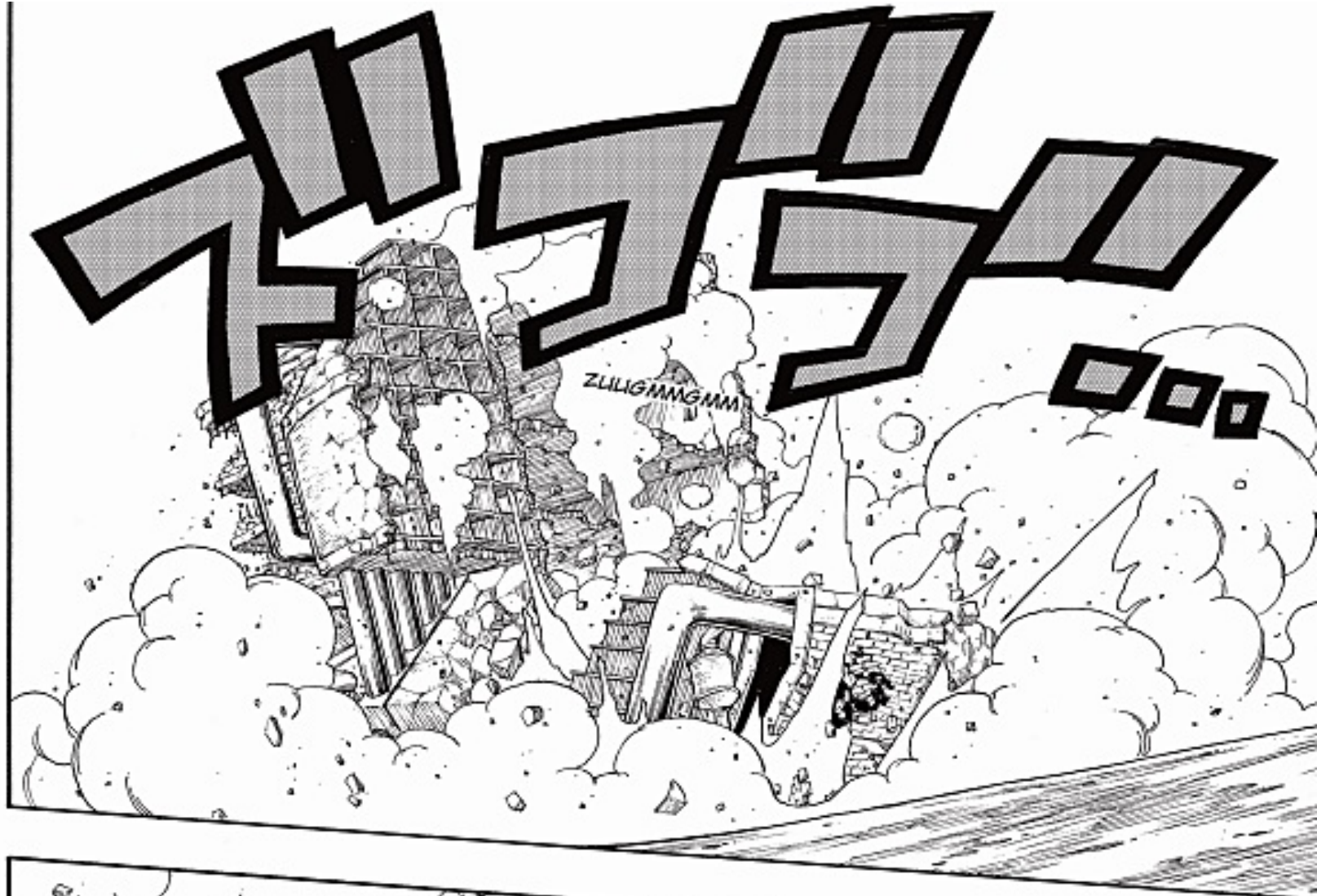


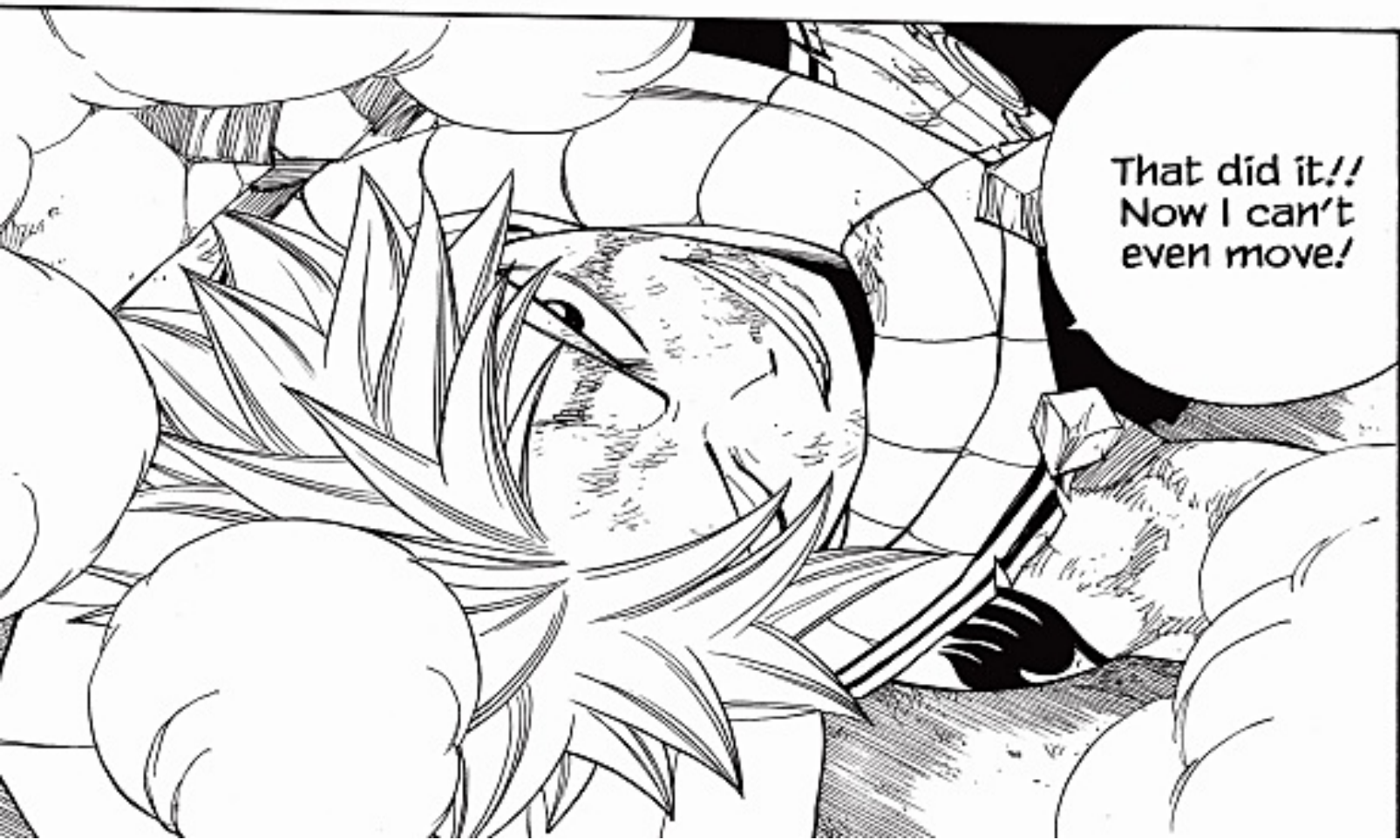
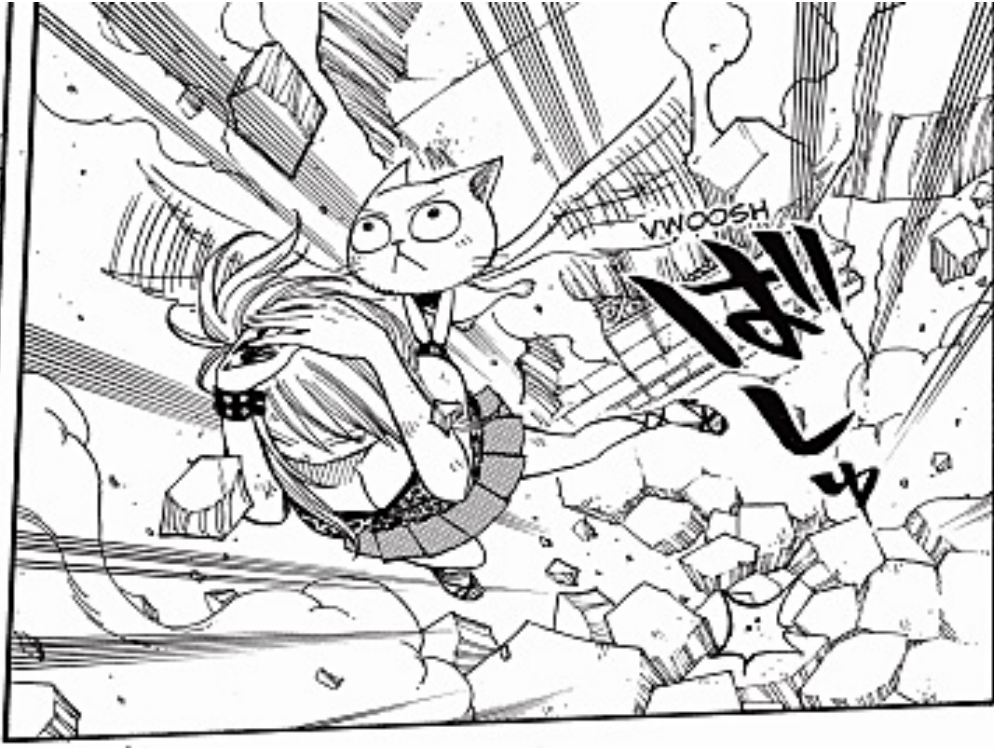


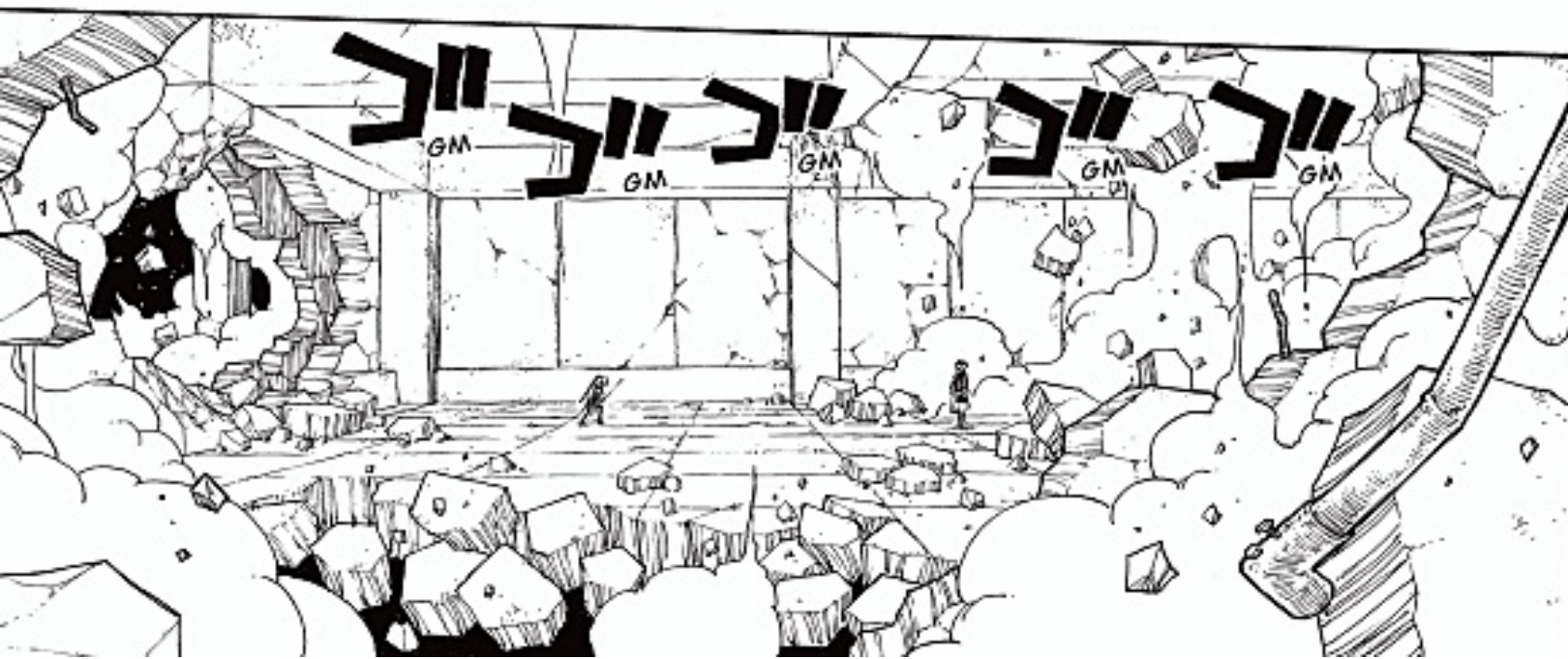
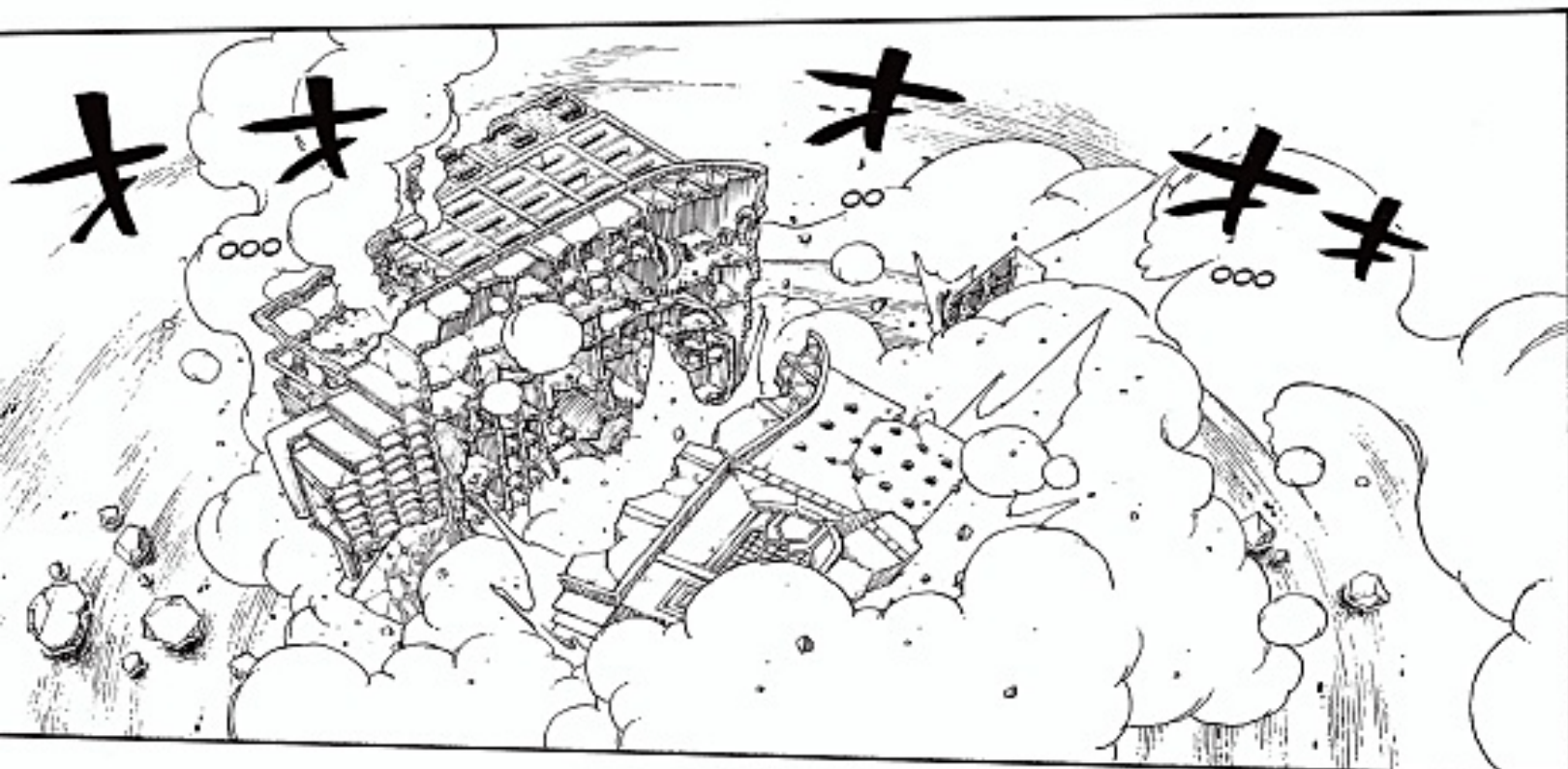
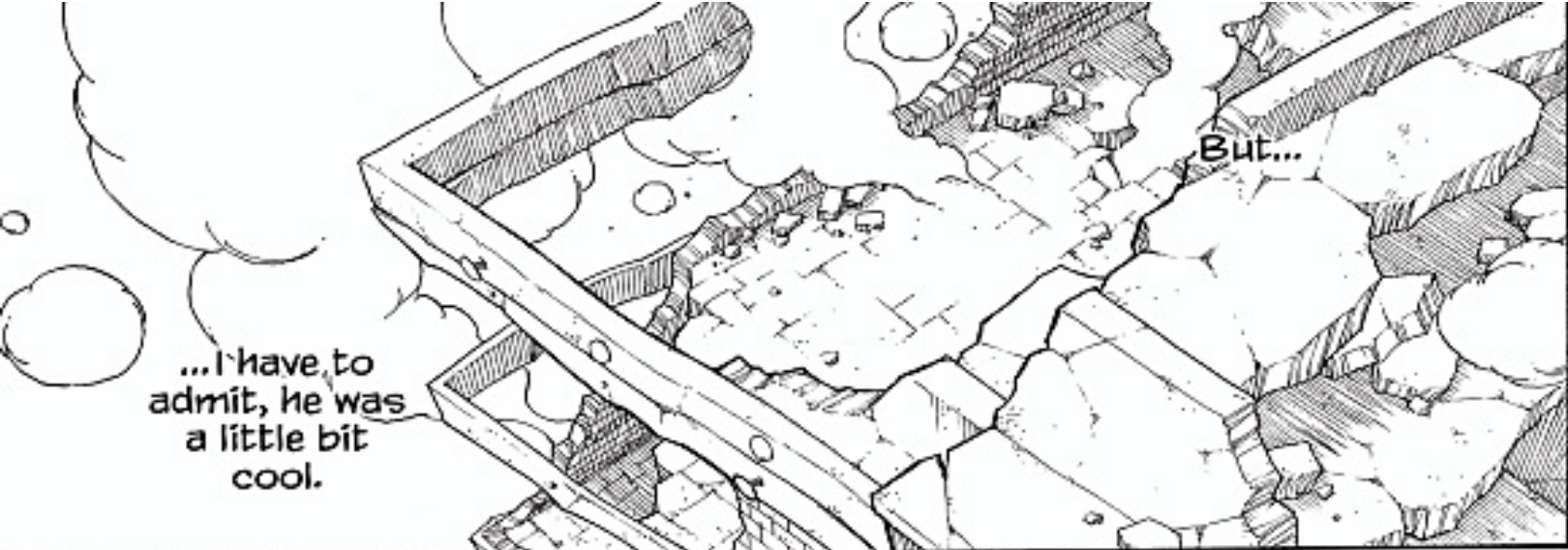
FAIRY TAIL

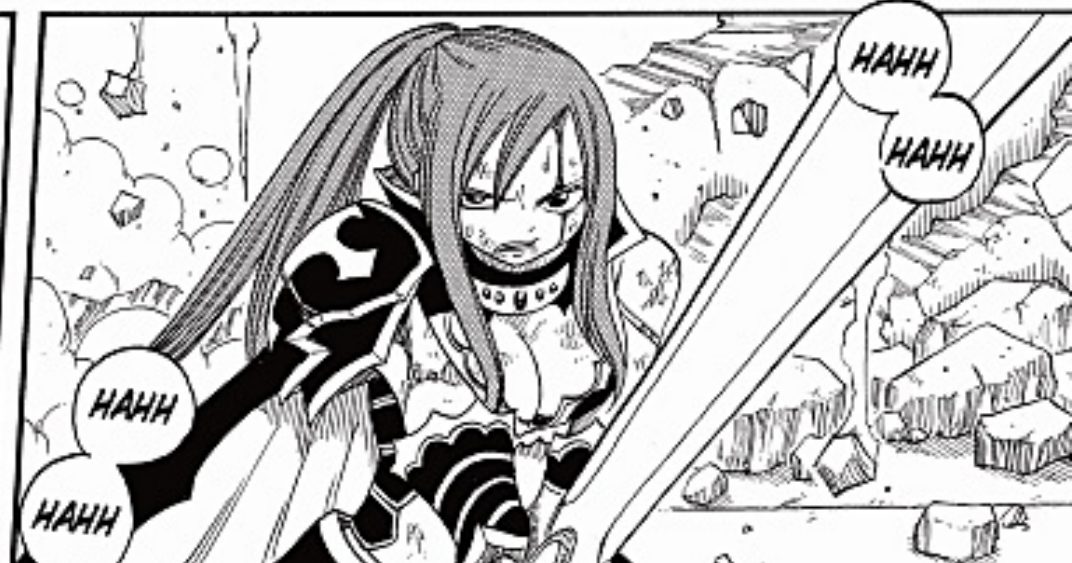
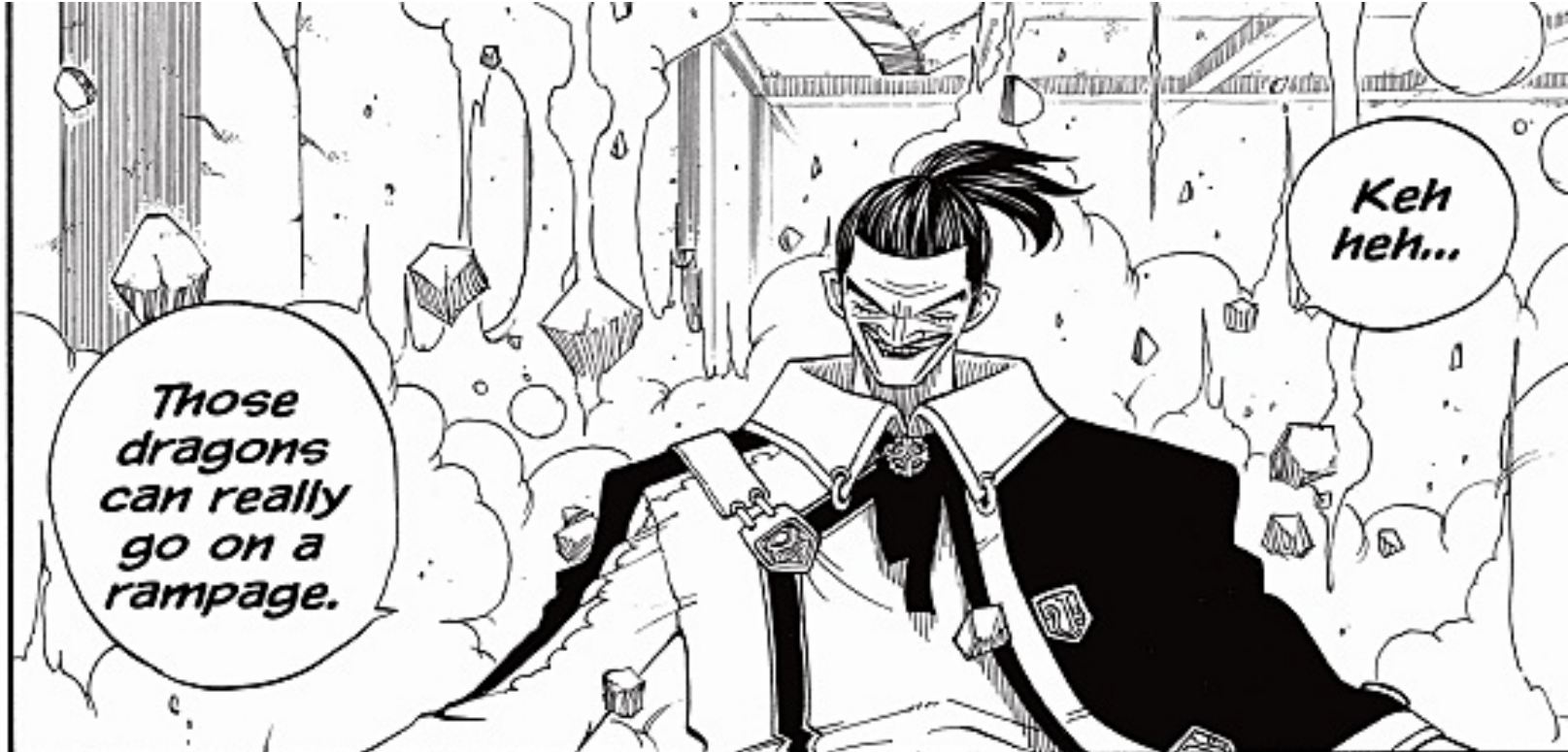
Chapter 64: The Best Guild











Your magic is praiseworthy.
I have never seen a wizard who
is able to come so far in a
battle with me.



Humph!

Cut the
false
modesty,
Titania.



I certainly will *not*
accept that there
are any greater
within Makarov's
guild!!!



I doubt
there
are any
wizards
who are
greater.



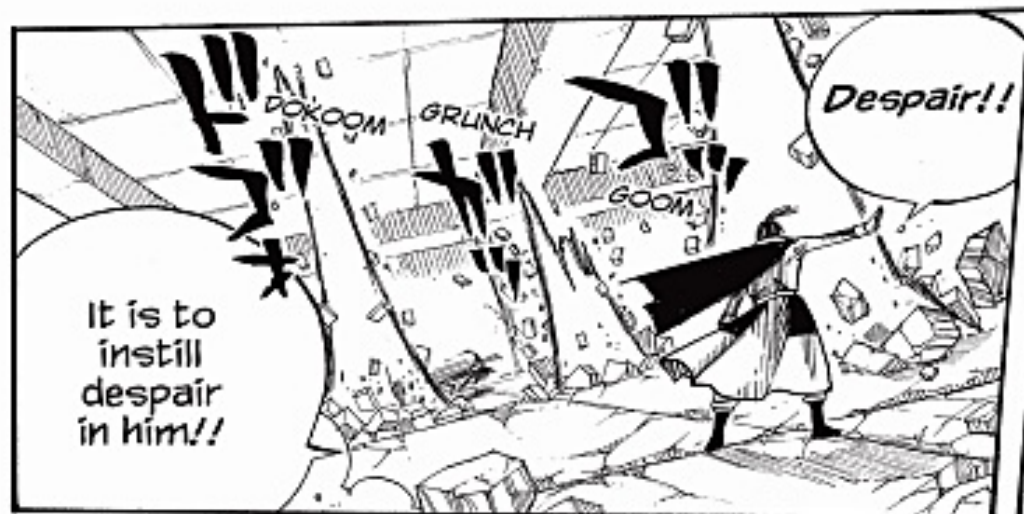
And if you
hadn't taken the
damage from
Jupiter, you
might have been
able to fight
even longer.



Uhhnn!!

BA CHAM

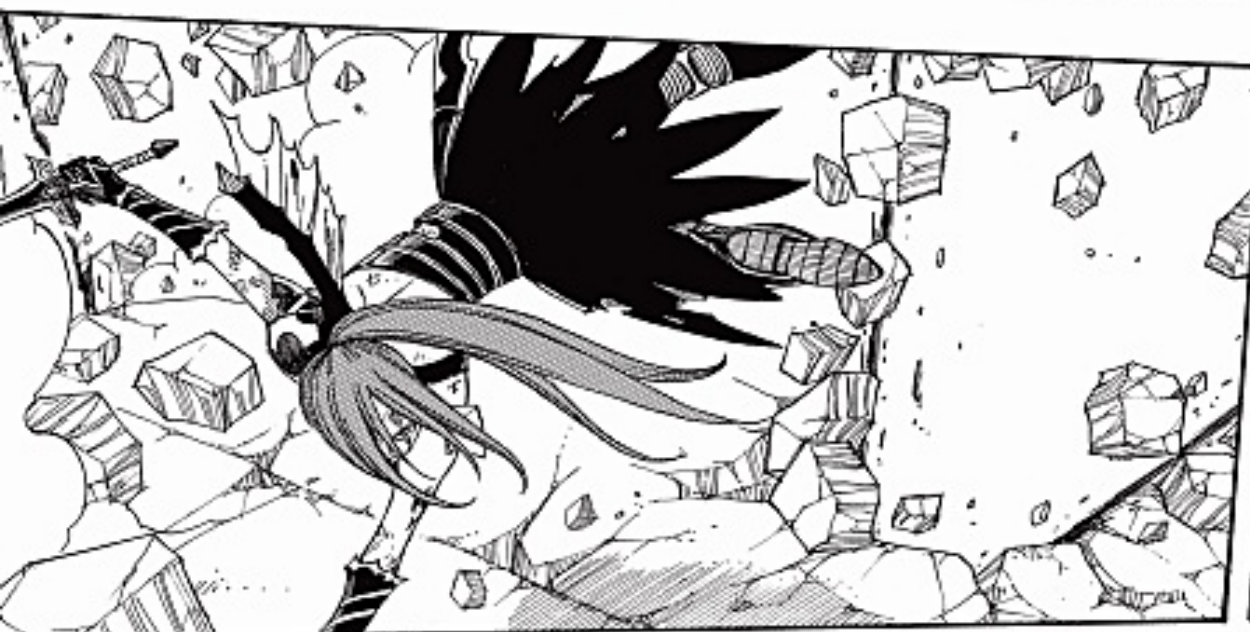




A large, close-up panel of Phantom Lord's face. He has a wide, toothy grin and a single eye visible, looking down with a menacing expression.

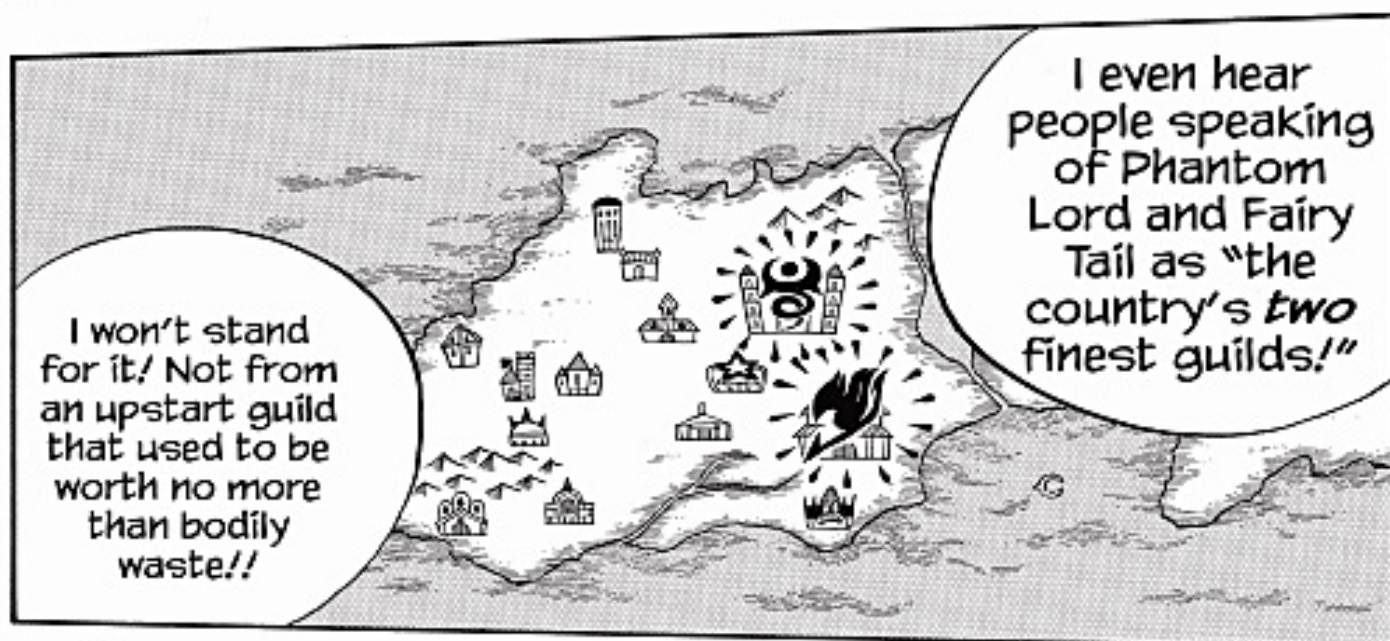
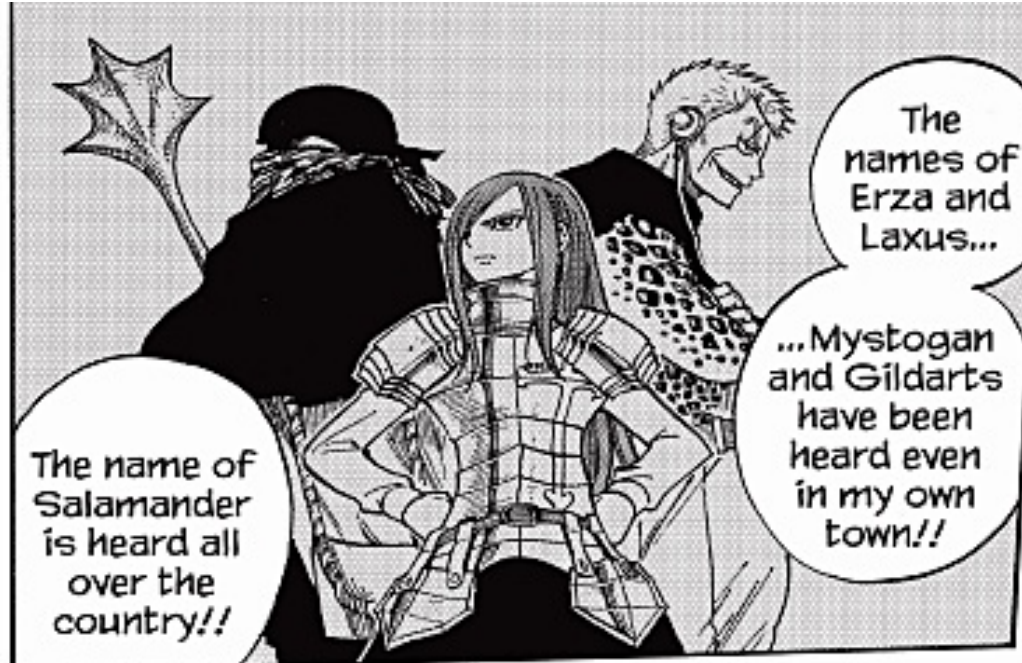
I refuse to give him a quick death!!!! I will make him suffer anguish and misery!!! When he has felt agony, only then will I kill him!!!!

Only after I have treated him to heart-rending despair will I kill him!!



We have the best magic, the best wizards, and the most money of any in the country!!







You mean
for that
trivial
reason...

You're
jok-
ing!!



Urk!!

VWOOM

So maybe
what triggered
the war was
something
small...

I could never
stand your
guild!!

How much power
do you intend to
suck up before
you've had
enough?!!!

I could hardly
believe it!!!
The daughter
of one of the
country's top
industrialists is
in Fairy Tail?!!



Small, such
as a request
to return the
daughter of
the Heartfilia
consortium to
her father.



...then you'd
certainly have
great power at
your beck and
call!!!



If I were to allow
you to use the
Heartfilia money
unrestrained...

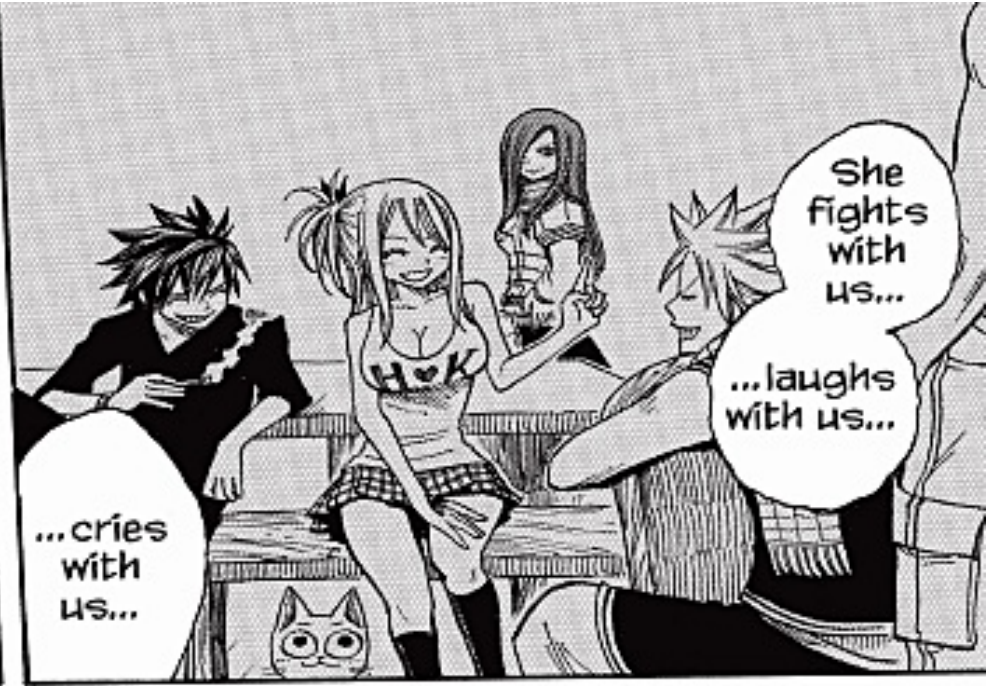


*That is
something
I can never
allow!!!!*



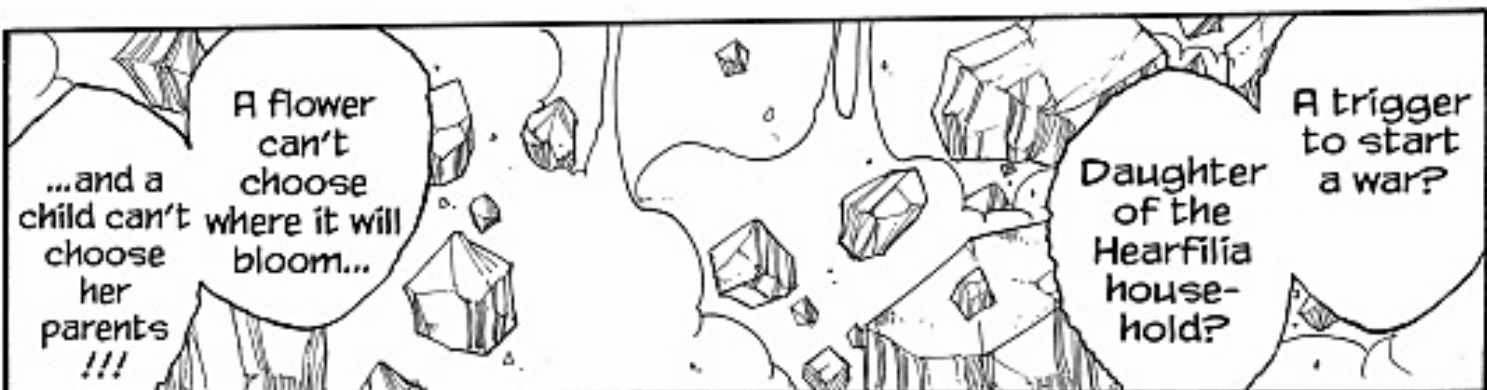


She's
just
another
wizard
in our
guild.



...cries
with
us...

She
fights
with
us...
...laughs
with us...



A flower
can't
choose
where it will
bloom...

...and a
child can't
choose
her
parents
!!!

Daughter
of the
Hearfilia
house-
hold?

A trigger
to start
a war?



*You've never
seen Lucy's
tears!!! You
know nothing
of her!!!!*



Until
the entire
Heartfilia
empire
is mine to
control!!!

Do you think
we intend to
hand her over
to her father
for nothing?

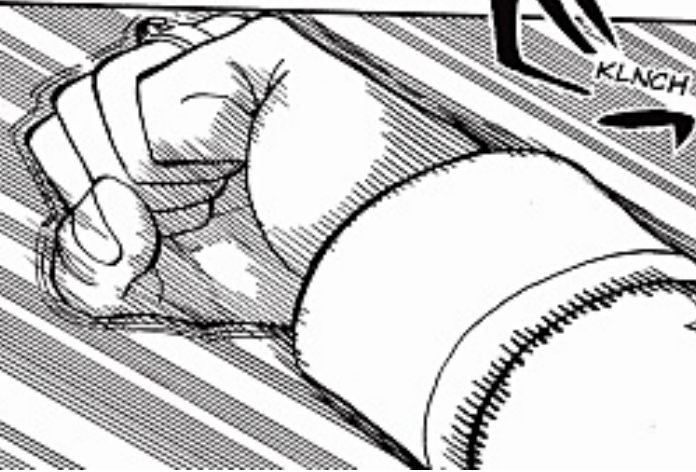
Oh, no!
We're going
to bleed
him until he
has nothing
left!!



Well, I'll
soon find
out, won't
I?



You're just
making it
worse for
yourself.



You should
stop the
insults.

G W A A A h h !!

CHHT

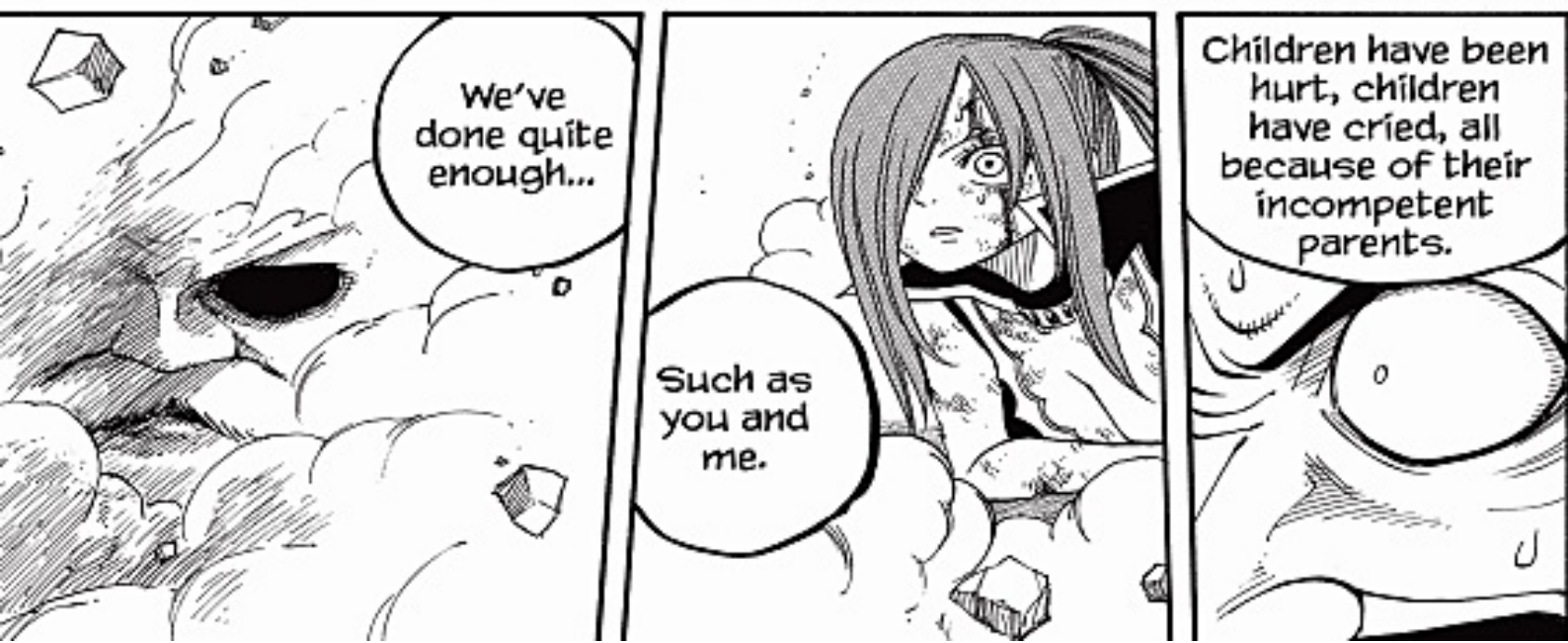
CHHT

CHHT

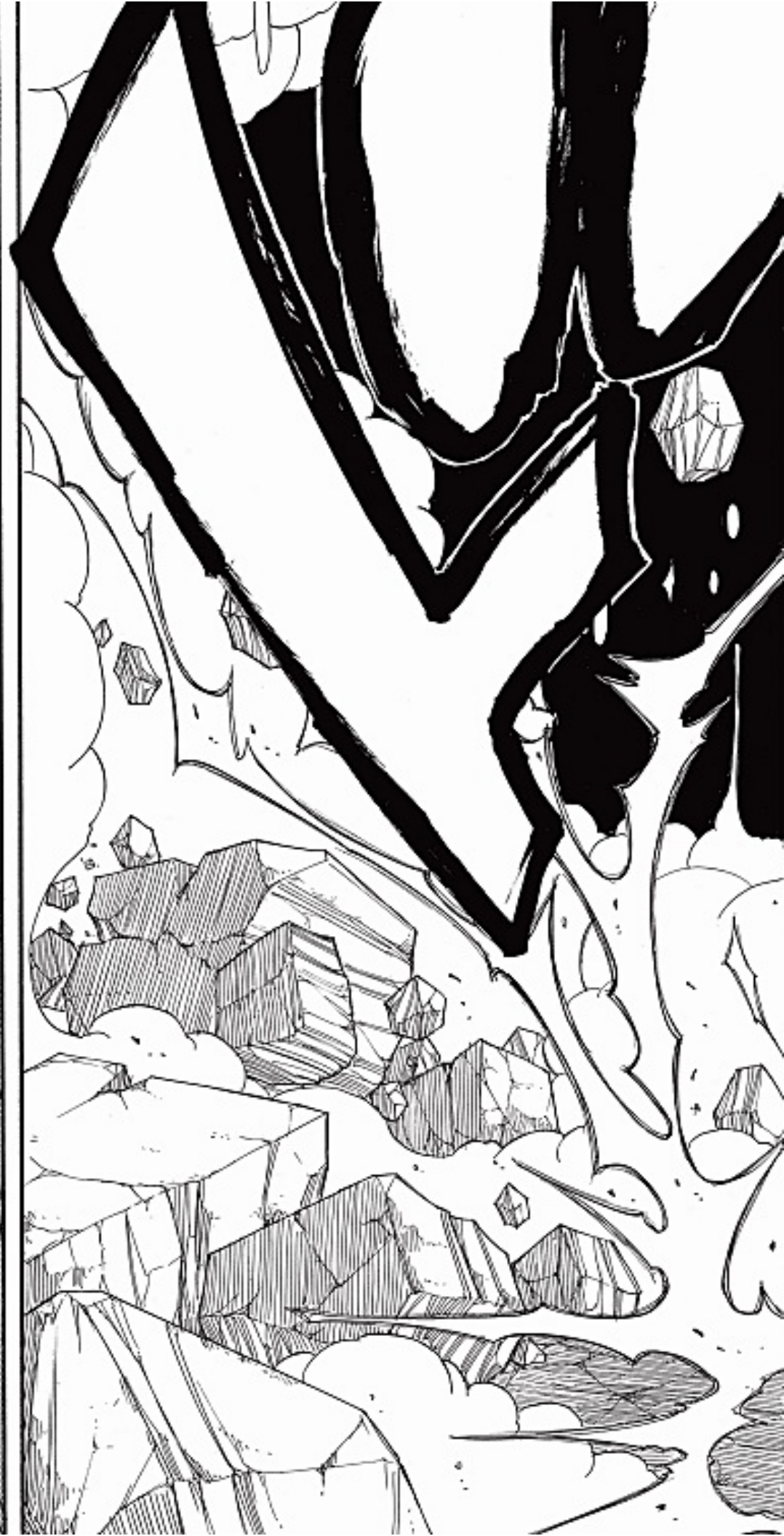
CHHT

CHHT





Master...

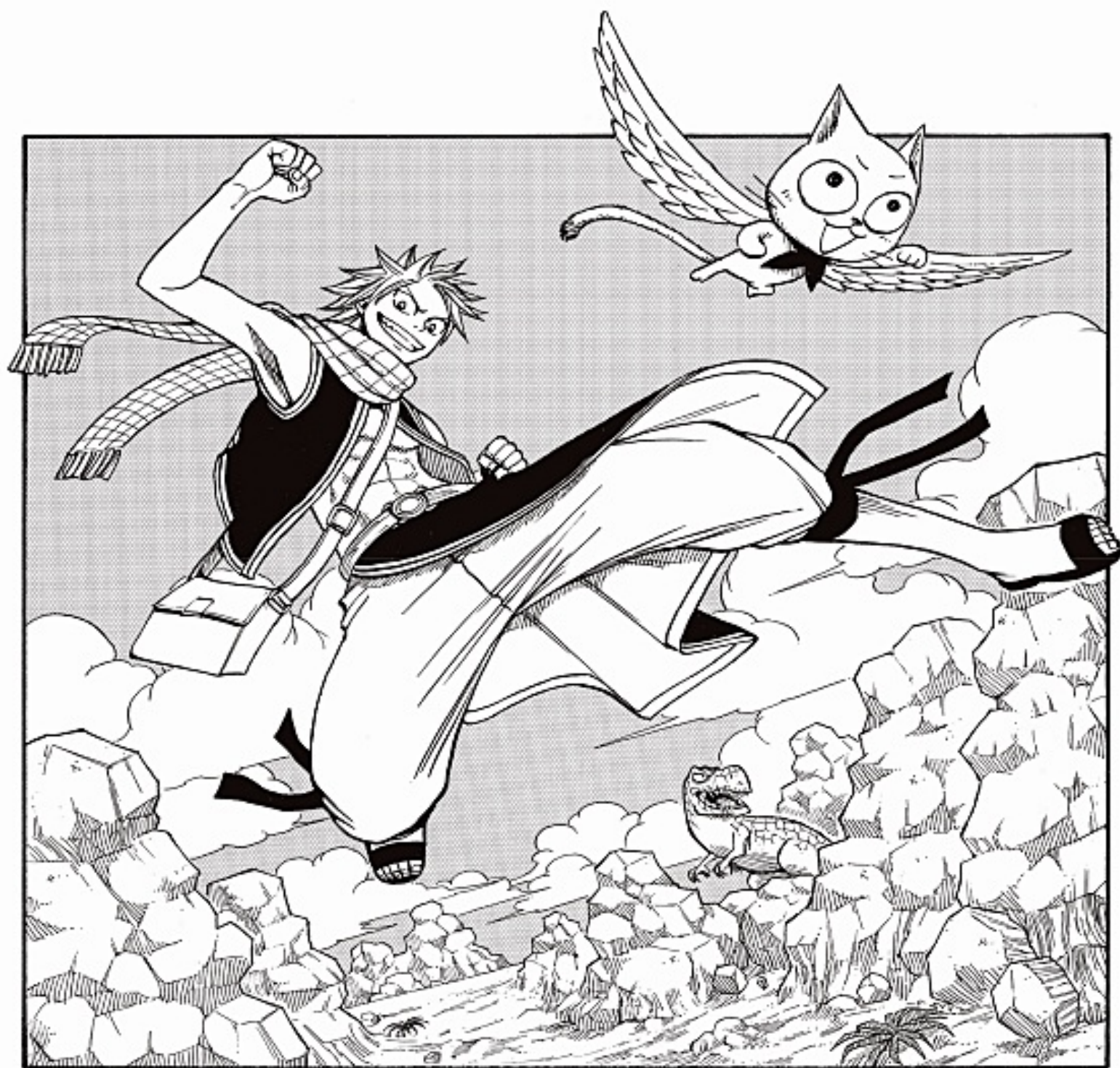




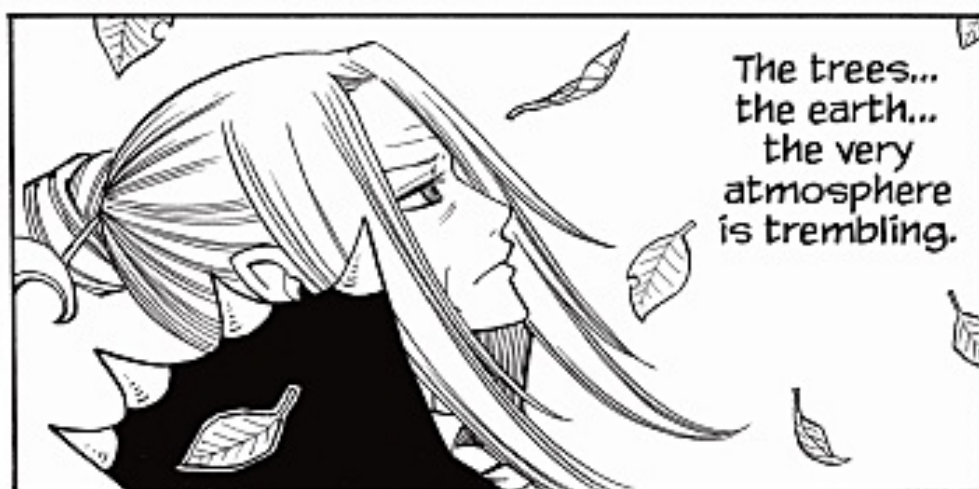
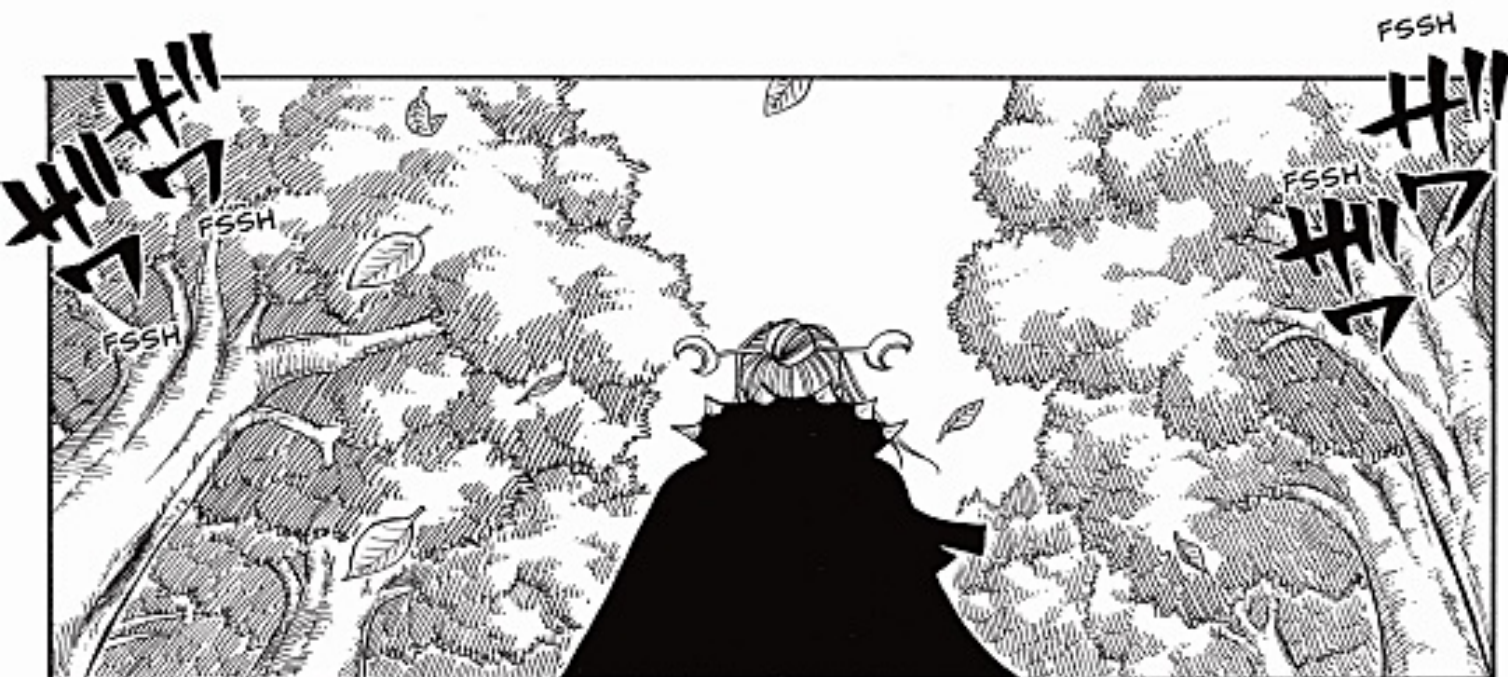
*It must be
stopped!!!!*



FAIRY TAIL



Chapter 65: Fairy Law



The trees...
the earth...
the very
atmosphere
is trembling.



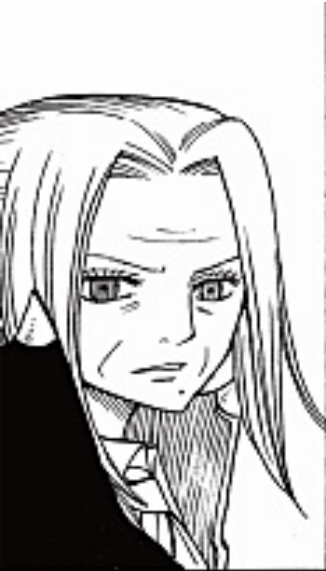
Makarov,
you
idiot!!!

If you
want to die
so much,
just go
ahead and
do it!!!



The stupid
creatures
can't tell a
simple story
without
turning it into
a war!!!

That's just
why I hate
dealing with
humans!!!



So you're
the one who
collected
up his
magic.



I see now.
I thought
that
Makarov's
recovery was
a little too
fast.





The battle of the giants will soon come to its conclusion.



Nobody gave you permission to eat that!!!



MUNCH
MUNCH

CRUNCH



...and enter the battle yourself?!

...you're supposed to be a friend of Makarov's. Why don't you leave here...

The last thing I want to do is get involved in some human battle, but...



Surely Mystogan couldn't have gone around taking down all of Phantom's branch offices?!!



!





I give up
on you
people!!

CRUNCH!



FSSH
FSSH
FSSH



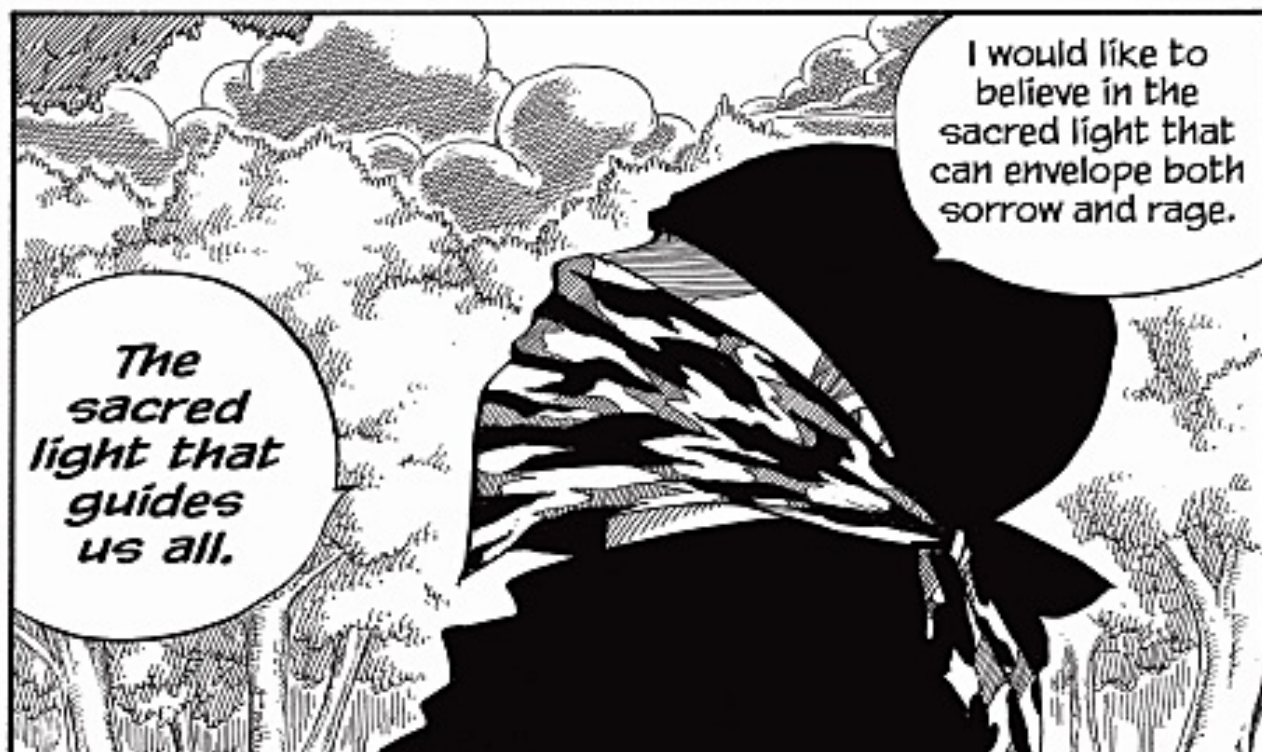
You'd better
not be thinking
of leaving me
with your used
apple cores!!!
Got it?!!

I want
another
apple.



And within the
whirlpool of
tragedy, one
forgets the
sorrow and
knows only
rage.

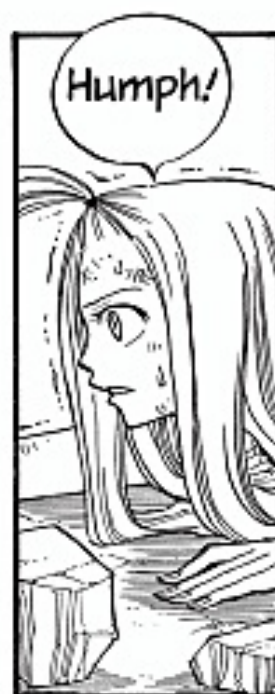
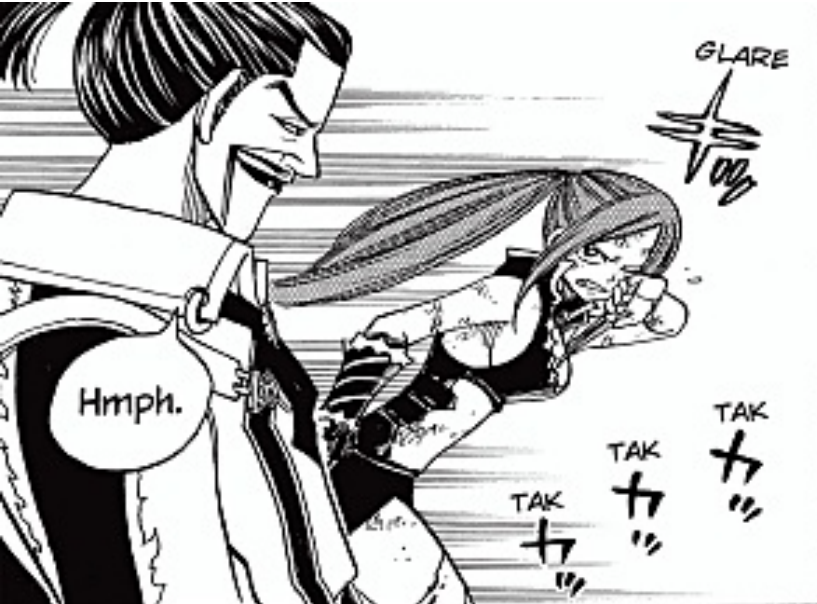
A power
too great
only gives
birth to
sorrow.



*The
sacred
light that
guides
us all.*

I would like to
believe in the
sacred light that
can envelope both
sorrow and rage.





I never expected Fairy Tail to grow so big in such a short time.

It's been six months since we last met face-to-face.

A guild has no outward form.

Heh heh...

Of course, it's just rubble now.

It's in the harmony between its people.

Everything is thanks to you, my children!!

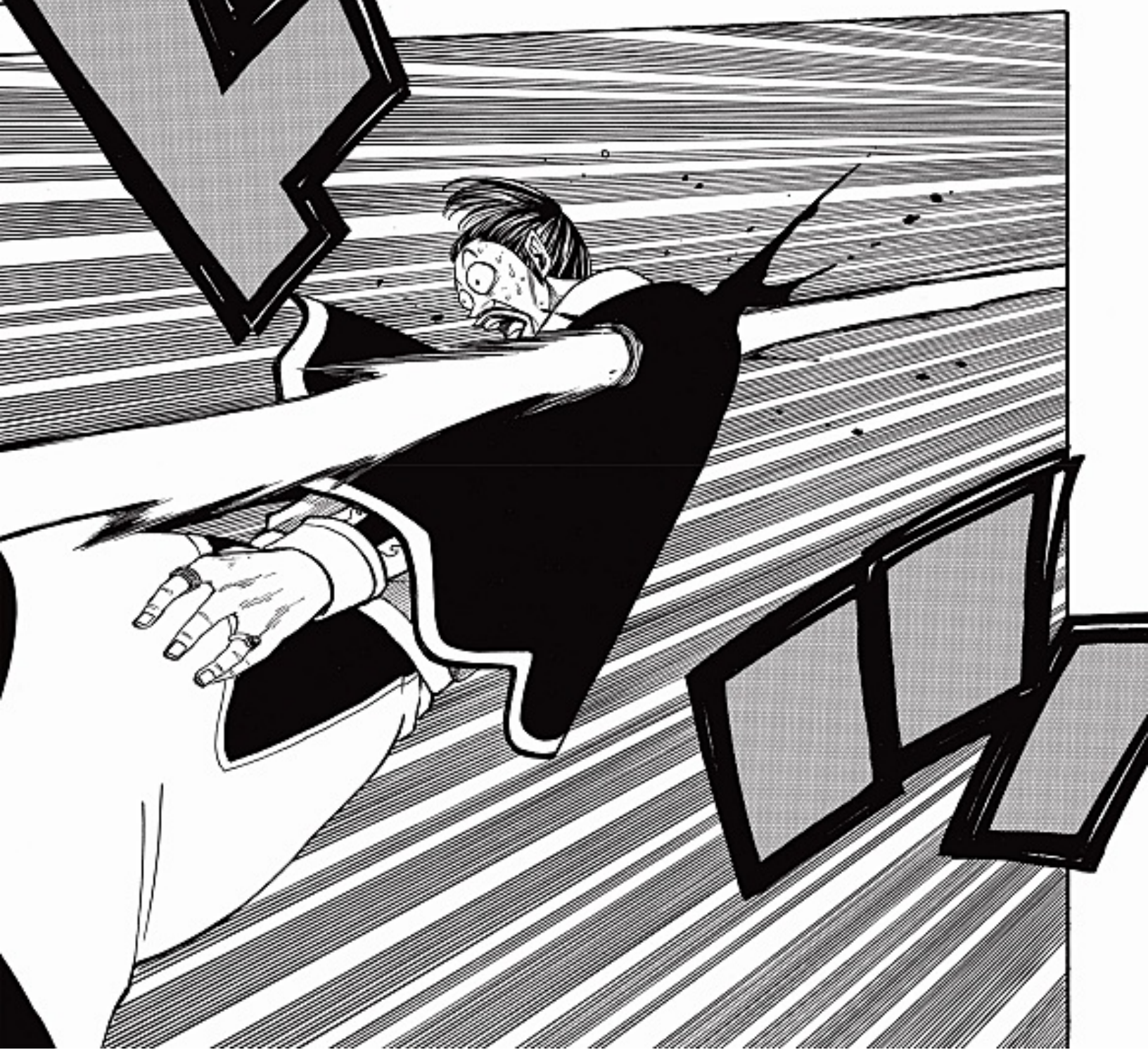
However, I must admit that I'm glad. We are now able to establish the order of superiority of wizard saints.

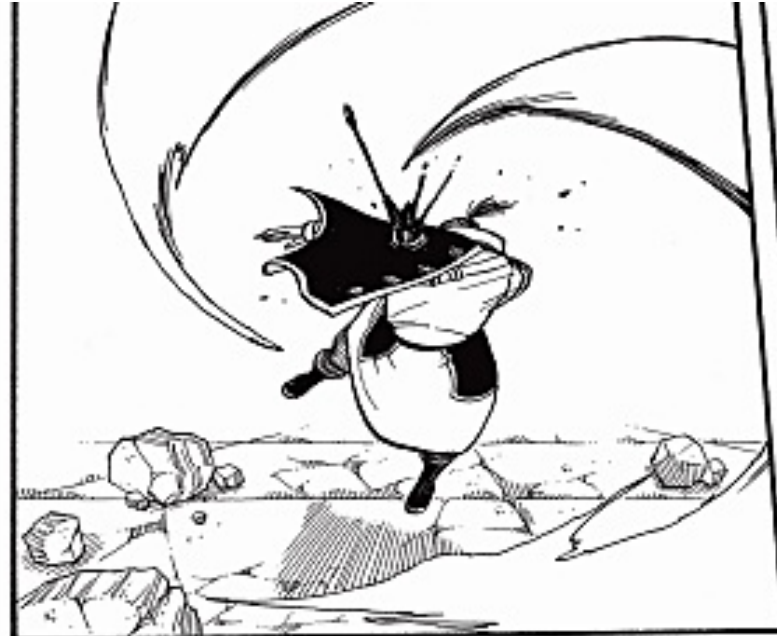
You did well!!

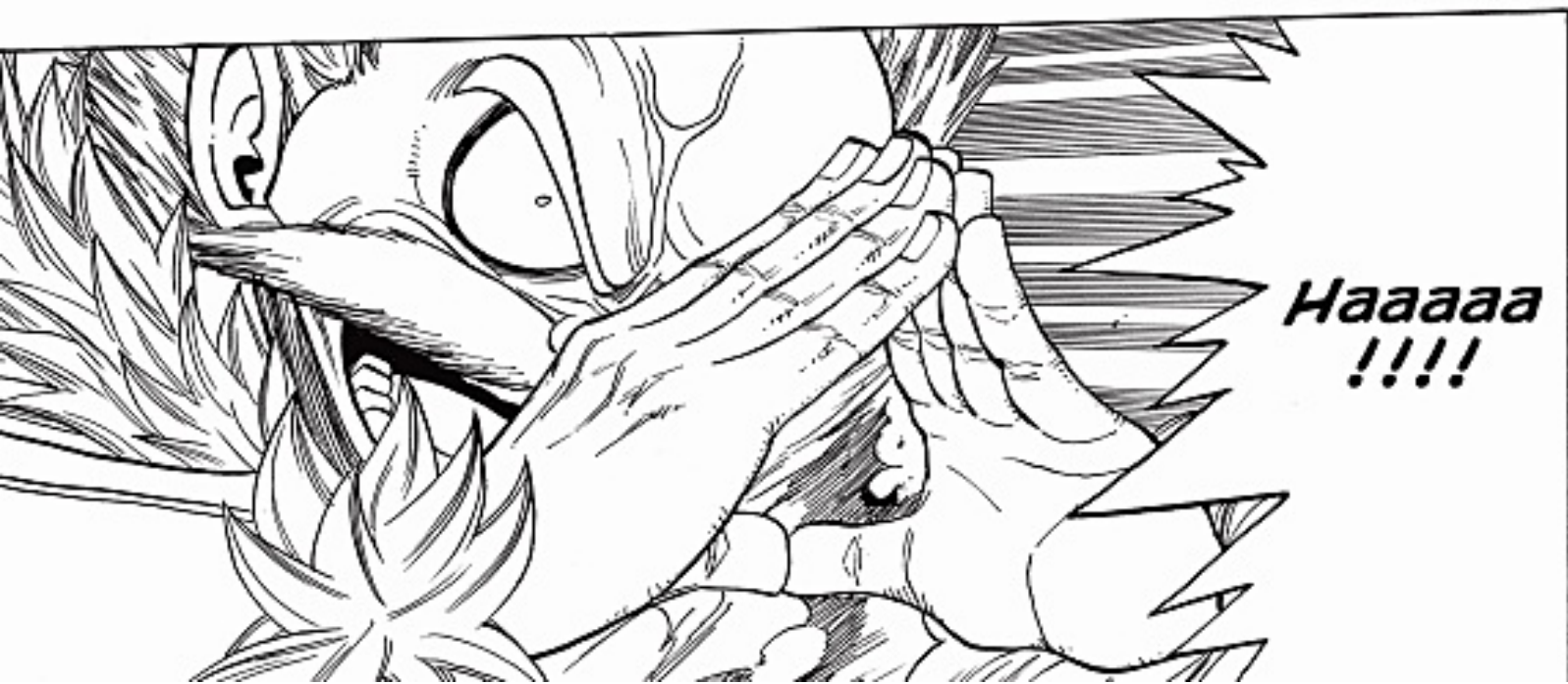
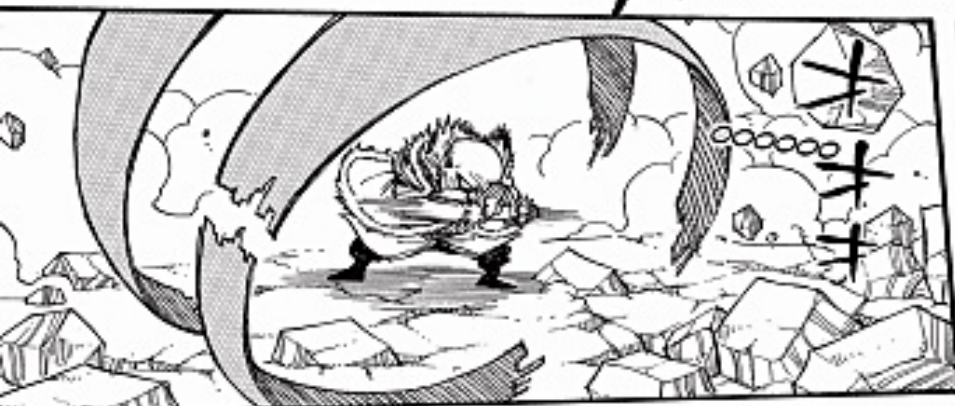
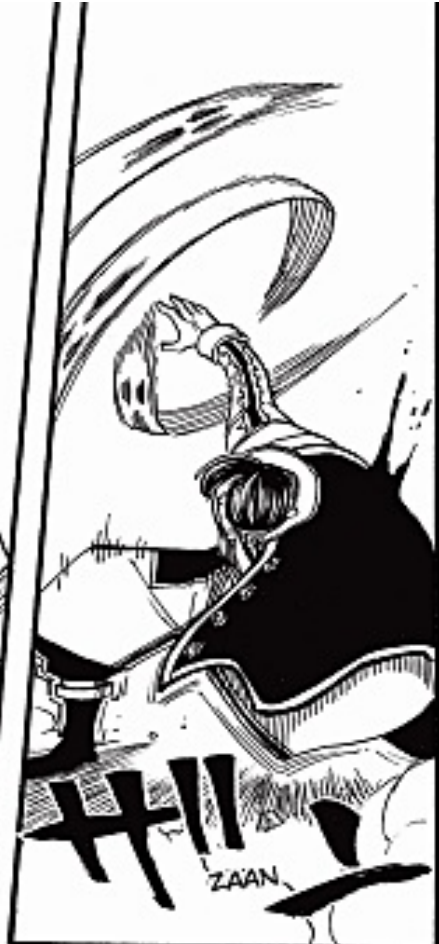


*Take
pride in
the fact
that you
are Fairy
Tail!!!!*

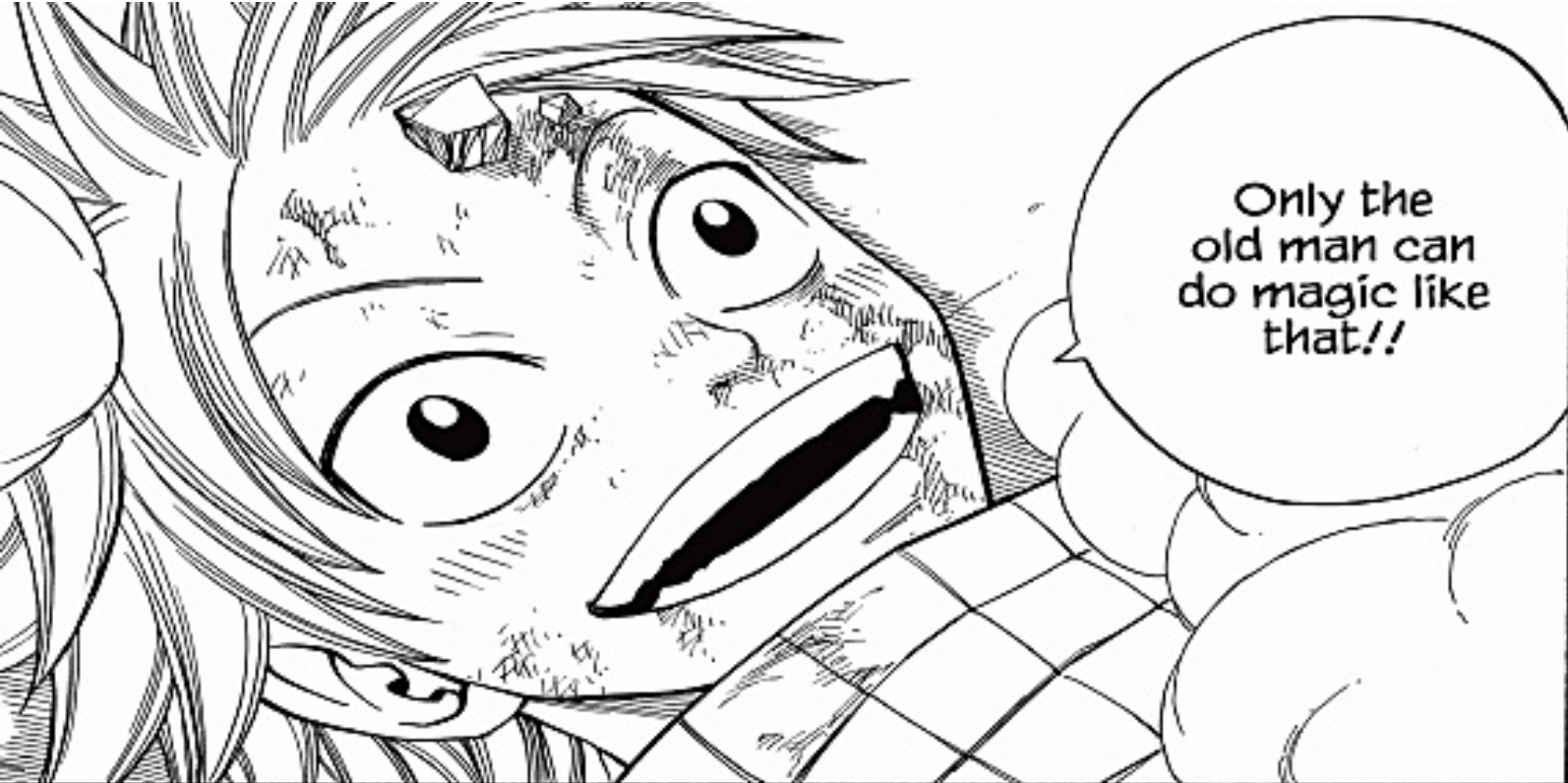












Only the
old man can
do magic like
that!!



...I guess
there's
something to
your title of
wizard saint.

To have such
magic at
your young
age...

Impressive.



...I'm
supposed to
give you to
the count of
three.

According
to the Fairy
Tail rules...



What is
this? A
lecture?

If you had used that magical
power the way it should be
used, you might have become
a model for the younger
generation, advancing the
entire magical world at the
same time.







No!! I have less scruples than you, so I am stronger!!

You're demanding that the leader of the greatest guild in the country grovel before you?!! Don't make me laugh!!! You and I are evenly matched!!!



Two...



I wondered what you were going to demand. But that I get on my knees?!

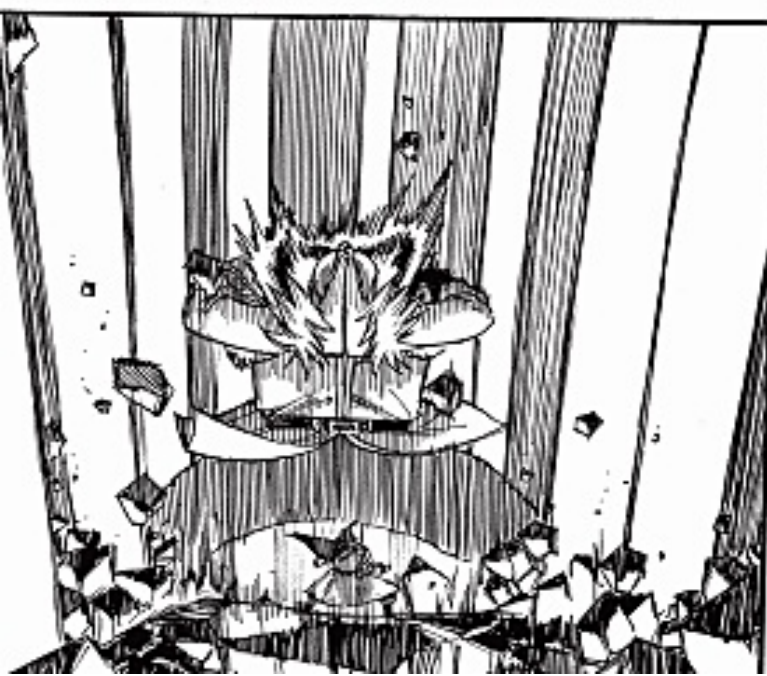
Ha ha...



You're the one who should be on his knees!!!! Go off and die!!!! Crumble to dust and vanish completely from the history books, Fairy Tail!!!!

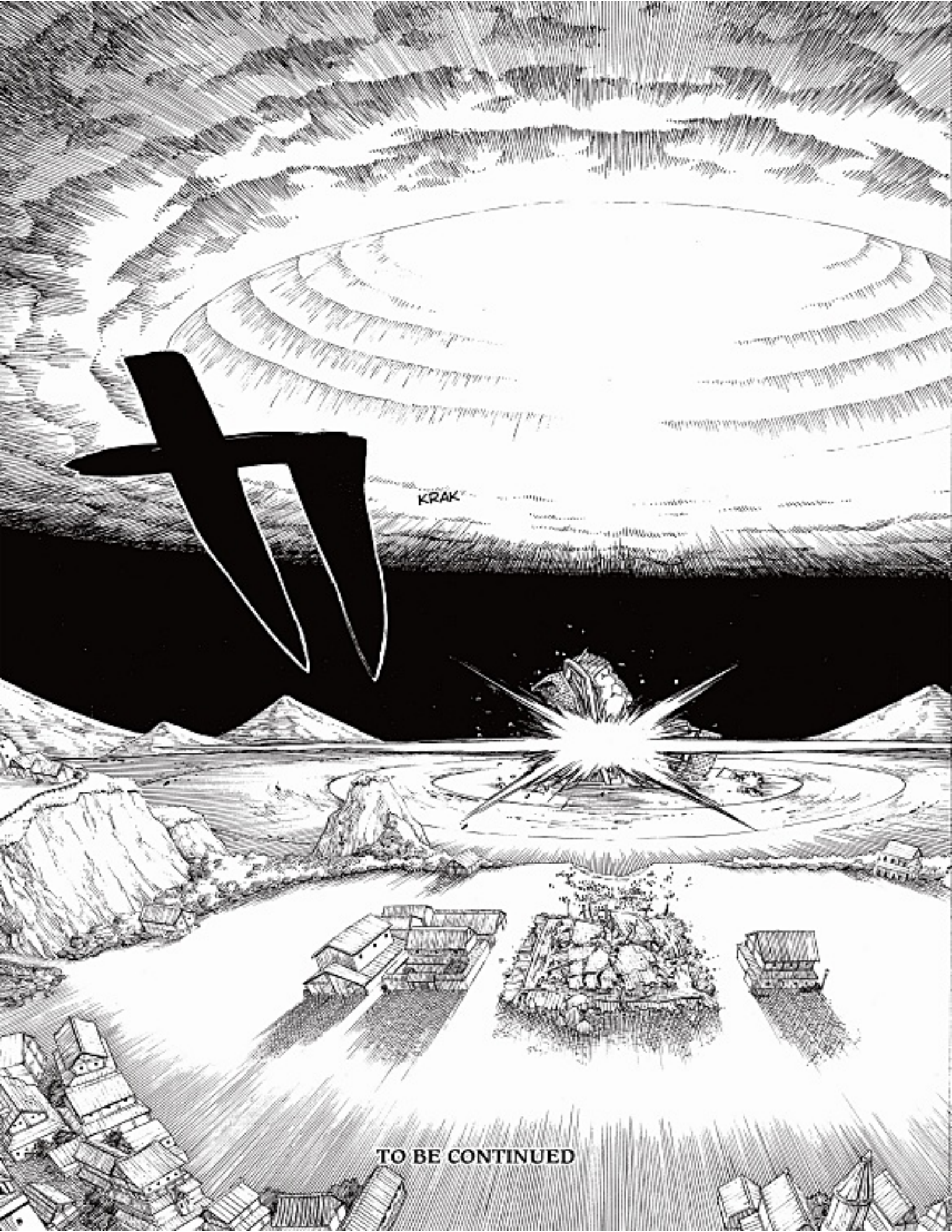


Three!!!

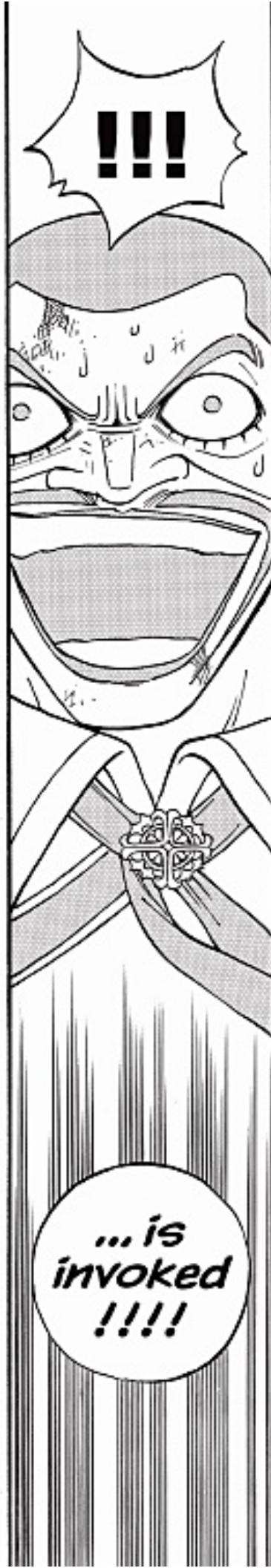


CLAP

I'm through waiting!!!



TO BE CONTINUED



*... is
invoked
!!!!*



*Fairy
Law...*



From the Beach at Hargeon

 : This time, we bring you this corner, not from the guild, but from the seaside! ♥

 : We're at the beach! We should be having fun!! Why do we have to do this?!!

Mira: Because the artist doesn't really think his stories through, so there are a lot of postcards from the readers with questions.

Lucy: Then let's get this over with fast, so we can go swimming!! Come on, Mira-san!!

Mira: Okay, here's our first question.



Does every member of Fairy Tail have the symbol somewhere on their bodies?

Lucy: Normally, it's in a place you can't see.

Mira: Yes, of course everybody does.

Lucy: I have mine on the back of my hand. It's on Natsu's right shoulder. It's on Erza's left arm.

Mira: As you can see ↑, it's on my left thigh.

 : Wow!! So that's where you have it?

 : Loke has it on his **ck.

 : His **ck?!!!!

Mira: That's right. His **ck.

Lucy: Mira-san...Um...Uh...Is that...okay?

Mira: Of course! It's a magic stamp! Not a tattoo!!

Lucy: No, I don't mean that. I mean...is it okay to talk about things like that here...?

Mira: Huh? Why would talking about his B-A-C-K not be okay?

Lucy: His... b... ack...?

Mira: Of course. His **ck.

 **Lucy:** Y-You know, in my opinion, there's no reason to censor that.

Mira: Shall we read the next question?



What's a lacrima?

Lucy: It's a magical crystal. A magic item that even normal humans can use.

Mira: That's right. I think for people living in the world these questions are coming from, you should picture a lighter in your minds. Even if you can't do magic, you can make fire with a lighter, right? In the same way, there are magical items in our world that have made their way into people's everyday lives.

Lucy: "Lacrima"...that means "tear," right?

Mira: Yep! But if lacrima are distributed too widely, then our work as wizards might dry up! I think that's why the creator gave it such a masochistic-sounding name.



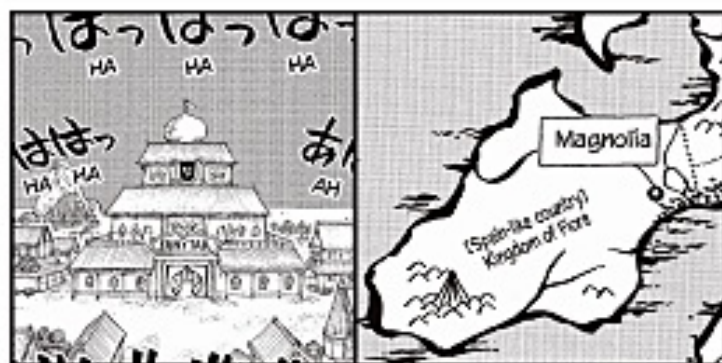
: Is...that...right...?

Mira: And now, our final question.

Lucy: All right!! Now we hit the sea!!

Mira: It's a question *about* the sea.

Lucy: Huh?



In some scenes, the Fairy Tail guild is shown right in front of a huge sea, but on the map, the guild seems to be pretty far inland...?

Mira:

Lucy:



: Why don't we go swimming, Lucy?

Lucy: Sure! ♥ But what is the meaning of this?!

Mira: You've got to give the reader credit. He's pretty sharp.

Lucy: I'm sure the author is putting on a face that says, "Oops!" right now.

Mira: Actually, that's a lake.

Lucy: Don't you think it might be a little too big for a lake?



: Let's just say it's a lake and let it go at that, okay?

Lucy: I-I...guess...it's okay...

Mira: Fine! Now, let's go swimming.



: With a lake that close, I don't have any idea why we came all the way to the seaside to swim, though.

Send to Hiro Mashima, Kodansha Comics
451 Park Ave. South, 7th Floor New York, NY 10016

FAIRY GUILD

Any letters and postcards you send with your personal information, such as your name, address, postal code, and other information, will be handed over, as is, to the author. When you send mail, please keep that in mind.



Ibaragi Prefecture, Namikaze



Saitama Prefecture, Ajeai



Kyoto, Sachiko



Gunma Prefecture, Ishijima Tomoka



Aichi Prefecture, Nakano Chisato



Aichi Prefecture, Happy Love2

Hey, I like this kind of picture, too! I really like the slender Erza!!

These are what people call "nekomimi" (cat's ears). I think zekomi (elephant ears) are going to be the next big thing!

Rejection Corner

Well... Sure, why wouldn't it be? Whatever that means.
Kyoto, Hirorin Sumiyabazaru

TAIL

d'ART

The *Fairy Tail* Guild d'Art is an explosion of fan art! Please send in your black-and-white art on large postcard stock!! Those chosen to be published will get a signed mini poster! ♪ Make sure you write your real name and address on the back of your postcard!



Shizuoka Prefecture, Chiyamushi

▼ I think that Mira-chan actually does everybody's laundry, too!



Akita Prefecture, Mikari-bako

▼ I especially like Erza and the odd way that she shines.



Kagawa Prefecture, Tôjûrô

▼ **Wincal** He's cool. It looks like Gray's popularity isn't slipping in the slightest. (How does a guy that shy and retiring do it?)



Tokushima Prefecture, Black

► The story of these three isn't over yet. I'm going to draw the next chapter someday.



Nijasta Prefecture, Neko-Punch

▼ So you like burnies? I have to say that is...pretty normal.



Saitama Prefecture, Ichii Jun

▼ Here's our "rare-character" fan art for this time. I never expected it to be this character!!



Kôchi Prefecture, Karvô

► Thanks for rooting for the simple love story. Now, what will happen between them?



Hokkaido Prefecture, Oshima (Taurus) no-1

▼ Actually, I'm a Taurus myself! So I draw him with the utmost loving attention! ▼

AFTERWORD

Once I set on the idea of doing a dragon slayer, I knew that other dragon slayers would show up. And after a long wait, the one who showed up was Gajeel-kun (at work, we all call him Gajeel-kun (♠♠)). As Natsu's rival, he was extremely scary right from the start. Actually, there was a fight scene planned between Gajeel-kun on one side and Loke (guy with glasses) and Reedus (big guy) on the other, but with the way the episode shaped up, it had to be cut. Still, instead we got a pretty hot fight between him and Natsu, so we'll call it a good thing. Right at the very beginning, some characters called the dragon-slaying magic "Dragon Slayer," but in point of fact, dragon slayers are the people who use dragon-slaying magic. Sorry for all the confusion. This wasn't a mistake. It's just such an old form of magic that the characters don't understand the term anymore. As time went on, people had trouble differentiating between the magic and the users of that magic. But I didn't get that across to the readers very well, huh?(♠)

By the way, there are even more dragon slayers in this world. They may appear over the course of the story, but then again, they may not. The dragon Igneel passed on the techniques for slaying dragons and then disappeared. Hmm...A weird story. But I have my reasons for it, and those reasons may become key information later on. But then again, they may not. Hmm...I sort of forgot what I was trying to say, so I'm just going to end this here.



It happened so fast! My original goal of ten volumes is already in sight. Before I started, I thought that my previous work was so long (thirty-five volumes) that this time, I'd limit it to only about ten volumes. But it turned out to be much more fun drawing *FT* than I originally thought it would be. It looks like I can make this story a lot longer than planned! So root for me as I continue on...at least to volume 11!!

—Hiro Mashima

Translation Notes

Japanese is a tricky language for most Westerners, and translation is often more art than science. For your edification and reading pleasure, here are notes on some of the places where we could have gone in a different direction in our translation of the work, or where a Japanese cultural reference is used.

General Notes: Wizard

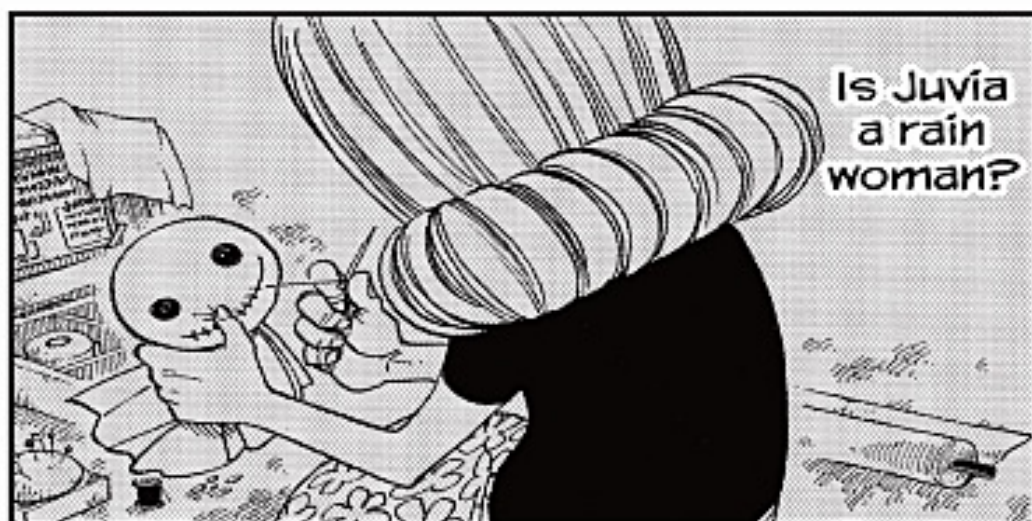
In the original Japanese version of *Fairy Tail*, you'll find panels in which the English word "wizard" is part of the original illustration. So this translation has taken that as its inspiration and translated the word *madôshi* as "wizard." But *madôshi*'s meaning is similar to certain Japanese words that have been borrowed by the English language, such as judo (the soft way) and kendo (the way of the sword). *Madô* is the way of magic, and *madôshi* are those who follow the way of magic. So although the word "wizard" is used in the original dialogue, a Japanese reader would be likely to think not of traditional Western wizards such as Merlin or Gandalf, but of martial artists.

Names

Hiro Mashima has graciously agreed to provide official English spellings for just about all of the characters in *Fairy Tail*. Because this version of *Fairy Tail* is the first publication of most of these spellings, there will inevitably be differences between these spellings and some of the fan interpretations that may have spread throughout the Web or in other fan circles. Rest assured that the spellings contained in this book are the spellings that Mashima-sensei wanted for *Fairy Tail*.

Fair-Weather Charm, page 3

The Japanese have a popular charm that is supposed to avert rain: the *teru-teru bôzu*, where *teru* means “to shine” as in sunshine, and *bôzu* means a Buddhist priest or monk. To make one, a white tissue, napkin, or cloth is wrapped around a ball and tied off at the “neck” making a head with the rest of the cloth or paper trailing off as robes. Usually a smiley face is drawn on it (see page 15 for a slightly clumsy example). It is called a “*bôzu*” because it has a round, bald head much like Buddhist monks or priests do. Once the charm is made, it is usually hung under the roof’s rafters as a charm to stop the rain. If it is hung upside down, it is supposed to encourage the rain to fall.



Rain Woman, page 15

Rain Women (*Ame onna* in Japanese) are a recurrent theme in Japanese folklore, and later, much used in manga and anime. In ancient Japan's agrarian culture, the rain women were called upon to help rain fall on the crops, and some worshipped *Ame onna* as deities. In more recent depictions they tend to be tragic figures who bring nonstop rain wherever they go, shunned and ostracized for something they cannot control.

Nattô, page 63

There are foods in nearly every culture that are generally loved by those within the culture and abhorred by almost anyone coming to the culture from the outside. Hawaii has *poi*, the Inuit have *muqtuq* blubber, and the Japanese have *nattô*. *Nattô* is a strong-smelling fermented soybean dish in which beans are connected by a viscous, stringy, slimy fluid. The dish is very nutritious, containing *nattokinase*, a fibrinolytic enzyme that is said to prevent clotting in the arteries. However, despite the benefits, most non-Japanese can't palate it. Of course, there are some Western lovers of *nattô*, and a large number of Japanese who do not eat it—in other words, there are always exceptions—but the rule is, Japanese love *nattô* and foreigners can't stand the stuff.



Man-Horse Palace, page 117

Sagittarius is Latin for "Archer," and that is how it is referred to in astrology, but in Greek mythology, Sagittarius is Chiron, the Centaur. Chiron was unlike the other, bestial centaurs, and instead was a wise and learned hunter and healer. In this version, Mashima-sensei makes a joke of the man-horse by presenting it in an unusual way. However, if I had translated the palace as the "Centaur Palace," Mashima's version of the man-horse wouldn't follow logically as it does with the more literal translation of "Man-Horse Palace."



Moshi-moshi, page 117

At first, I thought Sagittarius's "moshi-moshi," was a Japanese horse sound, but I could find no incidents of horses using that sound in my research. (If you know of examples, let me know!) I just have to assume that it is a cute sentence-ending sound much like Cancer's "-ebi" at the end of his sentences (see the note in volume 2). By the way, the phrase, "moshi-moshi" is generally used as the English "hello" is used when answering the phone or when tentatively trying to get someone's attention. That doesn't seem to be Sagittarius's meaning when using the phrase here, though.

Most samurai-movie fans recognize the classic samurai hairstyle of a shaved forehead and a topknot (an oiled ponytail that comes forward over the top of the head). It is called in Japanese a *chonmage*. Totomaru doesn't have the samurai style of topknot, but he does have a rather punk-style topknot.

Honorifics Explained

Throughout the Kodansha Comics books, you will find Japanese honorifics left intact in the translations. For those not familiar with how the Japanese use honorifics and, more important, how they differ from American honorifics, we present this brief overview.

Politeness has always been a critical facet of Japanese culture. Ever since the feudal era, when Japan was a highly stratified society, use of honorifics—which can be defined as polite speech that indicates relationship or status—has played an essential role in the Japanese language. When addressing someone in Japanese, an honorific usually takes the form of a suffix attached to one's name (example: "Asuna-san"), is used as a title at the end of one's name, or appears in place of the name itself (example: "Negi-sensei," or simply "Sensei").

Honorifics can be expressions of respect or endearment. In the context of manga and anime, honorifics give insight into the nature of the relationship between characters. Many English translations leave out these important honorifics and therefore distort the feel of the original Japanese. Because Japanese honorifics contain nuances that English honorifics lack, it is our policy at Kodansha not to translate them. Here, instead, is a guide to some of the honorifics you may encounter in Kodansha Comics.

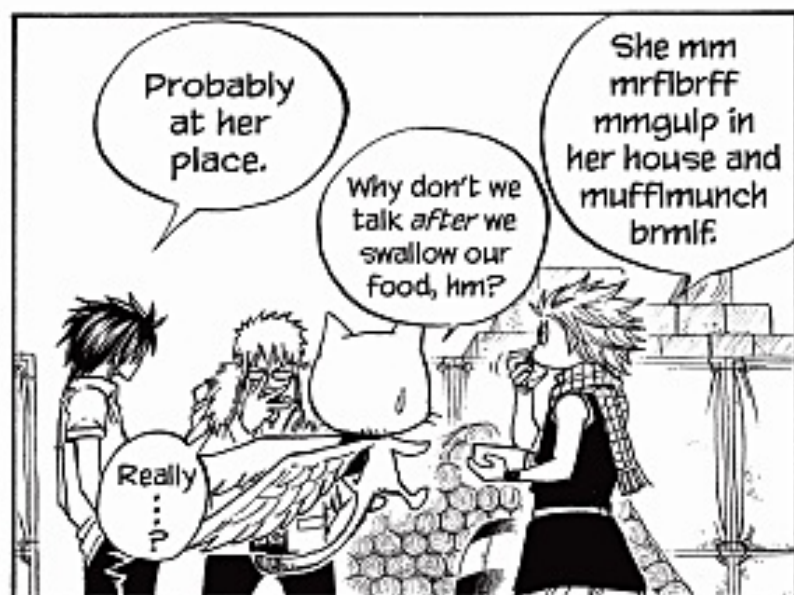
- san:** This is the most common honorific and is equivalent to Mr., Miss, Ms., or Mrs. It is the all-purpose honorific and can be used in any situation where politeness is required.
- sama:** This is one level higher than "-san" and is used to confer great respect.
- dono:** This comes from the word "tono," which means "lord." It is an even higher level than "-sama" and confers utmost respect.

- kun:** This suffix is used at the end of boys' names to express familiarity or endearment. It is also sometimes used by men among friends, or when addressing someone younger or of a lower station.
- chan:** This is used to express endearment, mostly toward girls. It is also used for little boys, pets, and even between lovers. It gives a sense of childish cuteness.
- Bozu:** This is an informal way to refer to a boy, similar to the English terms "kid" and "squirt."
- Sempai/
Senpai:** This title suggests that the addressee is one's senior in a group or organization. It is most often used in a school setting, where underclassmen refer to their upperclassmen as "sempai." It can also be used in the workplace, such as when a newer employee addresses an employee who has seniority in the company.
- Kohai:** This is the opposite of "sempai" and is used toward underclassmen in school or newcomers in the workplace. It connotes that the addressee is of a lower station.
- Sensei:** Literally meaning "one who has come before," this title is used for teachers, doctors, or masters of any profession or art.
- [blank]:** This is usually forgotten in these lists, but it is perhaps the most significant difference between Japanese and English. The lack of honorific means that the speaker has permission to address the person in a very intimate way. Usually, only family, spouses, or very close friends have this kind of permission. Known as *yobisute*, it can be gratifying when someone who has earned the intimacy starts to call one by one's name without an honorific. But when that intimacy hasn't been earned, it can be very insulting.

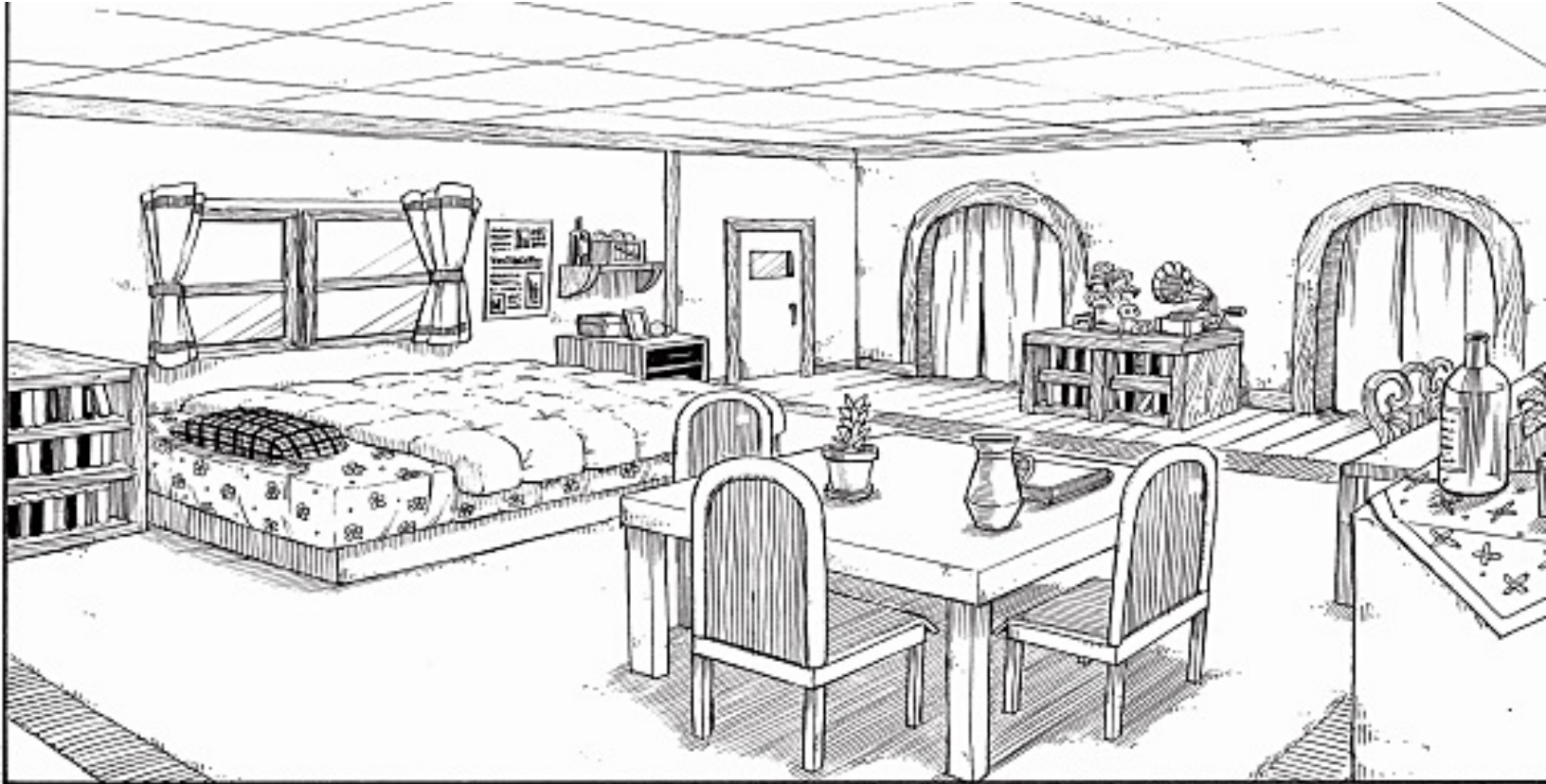
Preview of Volume 9

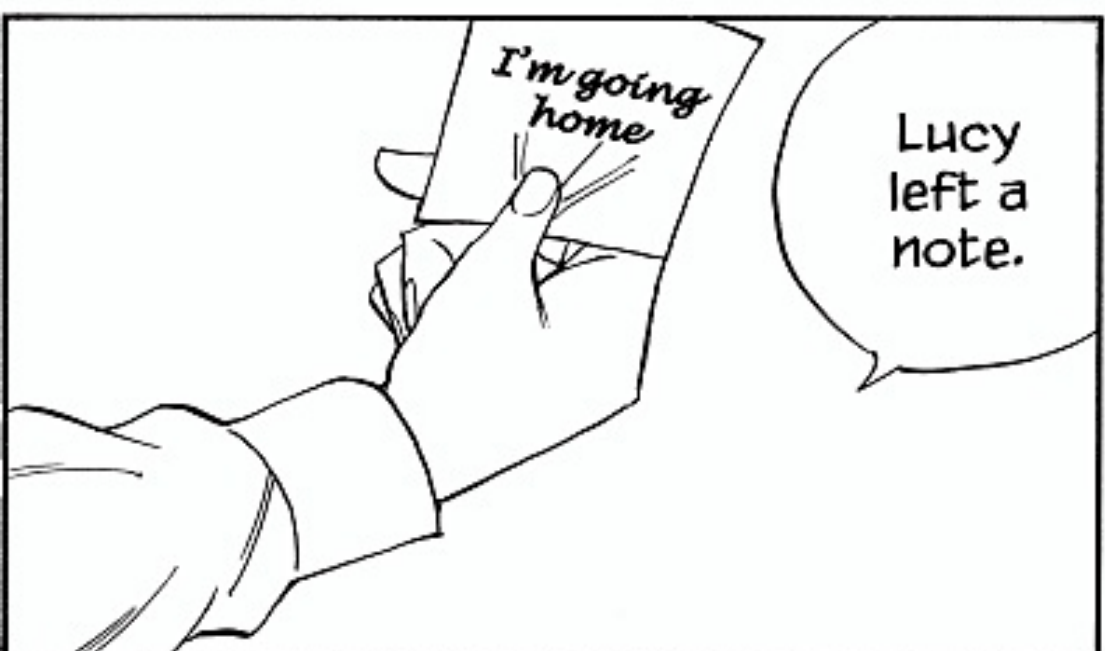
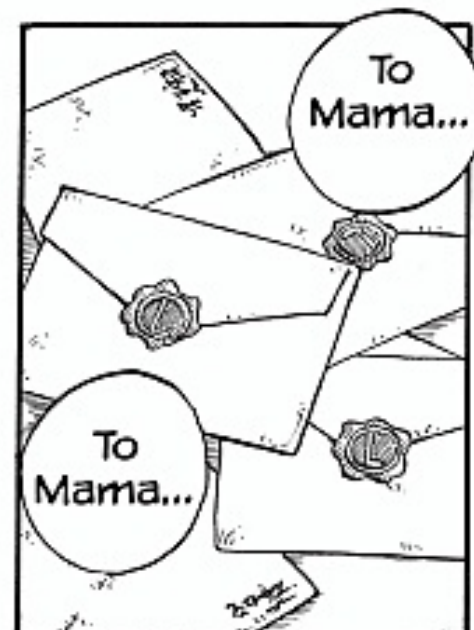
We're pleased to present you with a preview from volume 9, now available from Kodansha Comics. See our Web site (www.kodanshacomics.com) for more details!













...is
what it
says.

"I'm
going
home"...



**What was
that?!!!**



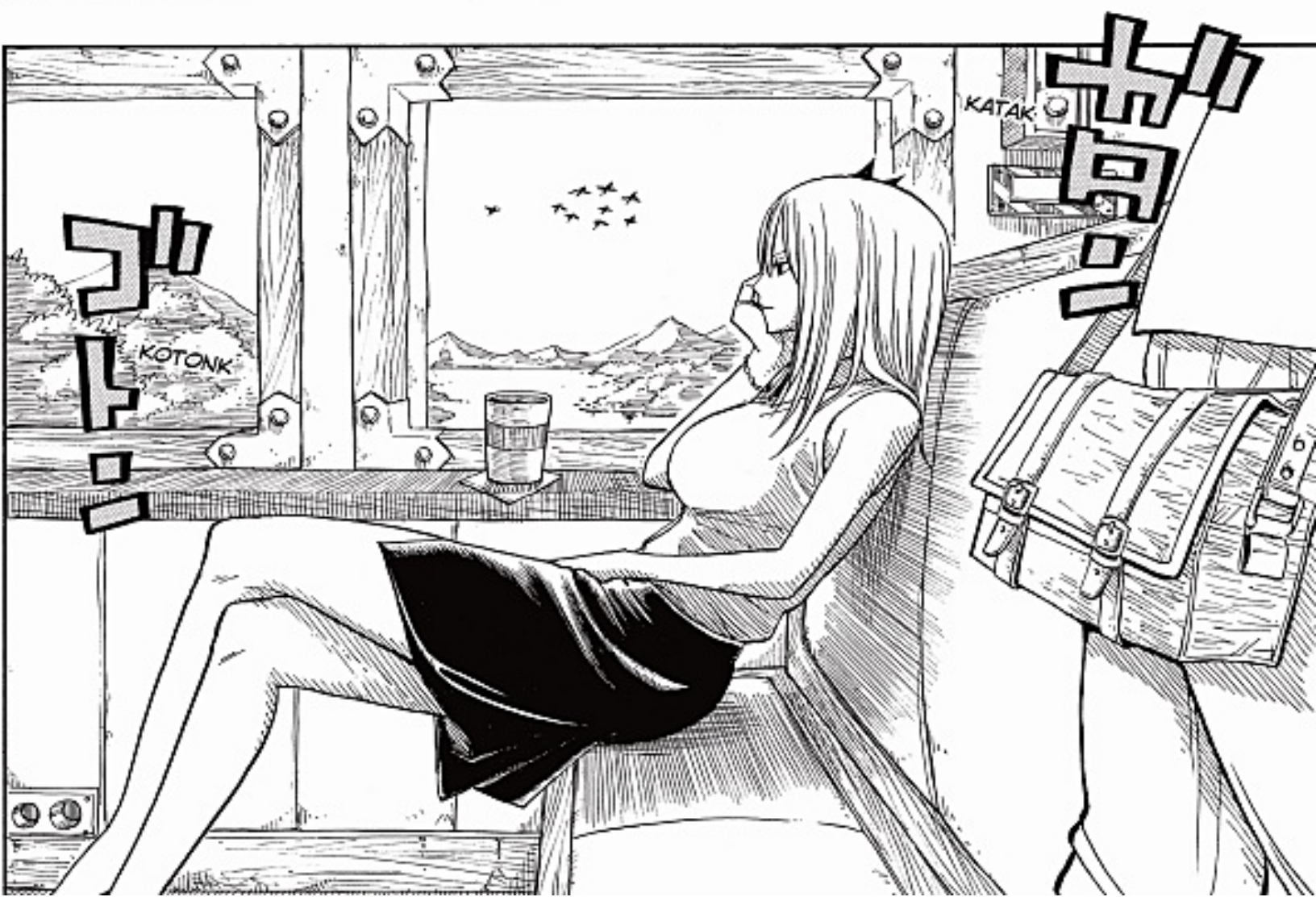
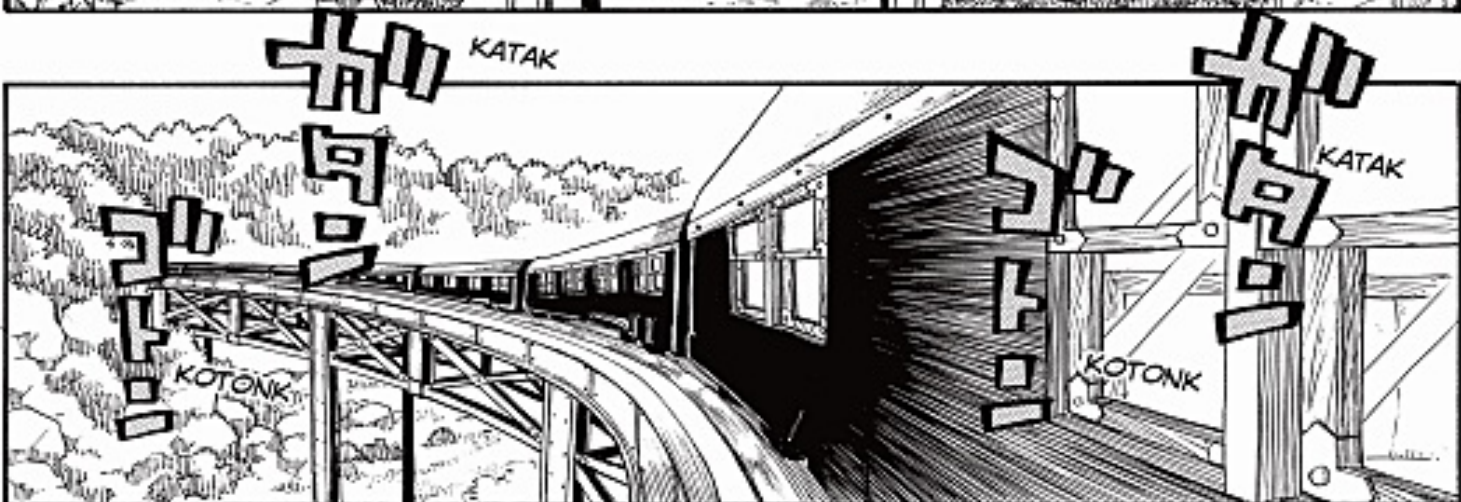
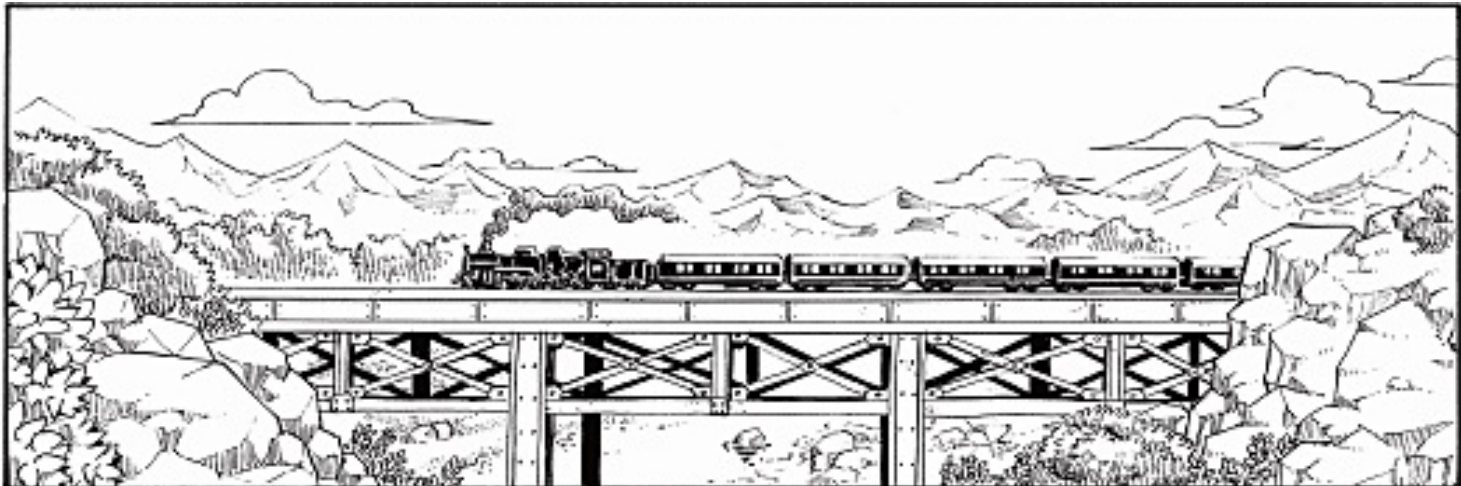
Let's
go find
Lucy's
family
!!!

I don't
know!!
Anyway,
let's go
after her
now!!!

Sh-She
wouldn't be doing
this because she
feels responsible,
would she?

What
does
she
think
she's
doing
?!!

"Going
home?!!!"
What's
that
supposed
to
mean?!!



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